




Speech By
Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER BILL

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.37 pm): I am pleased to rise to contribute to the debate on the Making Queensland Safer Laws. It is an important debate because there is not one person in our electorates who has not been touched by the impact of the youth crime crisis or does not know somebody who has been impacted by the youth crime crisis.

When I entered this place just over four years ago, my region of Mackay and the Whitsundays had very little crime. Part of that was because of the great work of our local community organisations but also the fabric of our community. I pay tribute to the new member for Mackay, who has joined me in this House. I congratulate him on his service as a former Queensland police officer as well as for his tireless work in crime prevention. I spoke about his contribution at length during the previous parliament. He has already made a greater contribution than his predecessor, whose failure to listen to her local community resulted in her replacement not getting elected at the recent state election. I am very pleased to see Nigel Dalton, as the member for Mackay, join me in this parliament and represent our region. I am pleased to see our many new members in this parliament, particularly the former police officers whom we seem to attract on this side of the House. They have served our community. It is interesting that those opposite criticise this side of the House when we have people with insight and lived experience of fighting on the front line to protect our community and keep our state safe.

In the four years I was the shadow minister there were three ministers for child safety, but as I stand here now as the newly appointed Minister for Child Safety I am the sixth minister in just over 10 years. This is a little bit of a memory game. The member for Waterford, the member for Bulimba and the member for Nudgee were all child safety ministers. I think their record speaks for itself with the increase in numbers in the child protection system. I will never forget the member for Barron River, who announced a residential care road map because of the challenging numbers we saw blow out under the former Labor government. Finally, there was the member for Jordan. Throughout the tenure of all of those ministers we have seen a child protection system under crisis, and that has contributed greatly to the youth crime crisis. We have seen children under child protection orders enter the youth justice system. There has been a watering down of the laws. It is a failed child safety system under enormous pressure.

It is the government's inability to respond to domestic and family violence and invest in early intervention in terms of perpetrator accountability that has led to a generation of children in crisis. Youths who are repeat recidivist offenders are undertaking violent crime. It is a sad indictment on those opposite who have led this state for almost a decade. We now know the results of the election. In this House last night and tonight I heard that those opposite were apparently out doorknocking throughout the election campaign. I do not know whose doors my colleagues on that side of the House were knocking on and what stories they were told, because on this side of the House the stories we heard were the stories of Queenslanders who were impacted because they were victims of crime. It is sad that every day when we turn on the news and open our newspapers we hear or read about someone

being stabbed, someone being murdered, violent crimes undertaken in our community, vehicles stolen, innocent people being harmed and business owners on their knees because they have been broken into time and time again.

In my part of the world, Mackay and the Whitsundays, our insurance premiums are through the roof because of stolen vehicle offences and break and enters. I am a mother of teenagers who gives up my time to sit in this House and proudly represent my electorate. I received a message at nine o'clock at night from my 19-year-old daughter who is at home. A break and enter occurred one street away from my family home. She is scared and has to lock the doors at night because her mother is down here. My 19-year-old and 17-year-old are at home alone. I am standing here as a legislator proud to bring in these laws.

I have heard those opposite and I heard the contribution by the member for Bundaberg. We are not afraid of accountability on this side of the House. We are not afraid of bringing in comprehensive youth justice reform plans, child protection reform plans and domestic violence reform plans. We do not shy away from the challenge, unlike those opposite who make announcement after announcement that, as many of us are discovering, are unfunded. In relation to that, I am sure that more legislation will be introduced into the House in the coming months.

We stand by accountability. We stand by Queenslanders who put their faith in an LNP government. We will do what we say we are going to do. We will not shy away from the challenge. All I have heard from those opposite is debate and flim-flam over where they are going to place their vote. I look forward to seeing whether each and every member of the opposition will stand up for their community, whether they will stand up for victims of crime and whether they are in touch with the reality of the state they have left Queensland in. There is a youth crime crisis caused by the failure of those opposite to enact a policy that results in any accountability. They have demonstrated that through their own lack of accountability as ministers. I certainly have experienced that coming into this role in the last month.

It saddens me to see the state that my community across Mackay and the Whitsundays is in. We have seen the crime rate soar. I want to thank the frontline police men and women. I also want to thank those innocent bystanders who are brave. They are putting themselves out there to protect their own families, at times in really terrifying situations. We all hear it all the time. Our offices have been contacted. Maybe those opposite do not answer those emails. Maybe they now have to answer their own emails for a change. Maybe they will be more in touch with their grassroots constituents instead of in denial because they have so many staff between them and the reality of what we have dealt with over the last four years. Let us never forget or lose touch with those people we represent, because ultimately they are who we are here to serve.

I am proud to be part of an LNP Crisafulli government that is committed to making Queensland safe. We will not shy away from lowering victim numbers. Those opposite can stop the scare tactics. We will be judged in four years. I commend the bill. I look forward to seeing how those opposite vote. I look forward to reminding Queenslanders for the next four years whether they added to the youth crime crisis or whether they wanted to be part of the solution the LNP government has put forward.