



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Community Safety**

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.12 pm): It was six years ago in my maiden speech that I spoke of my lifelong desire to be a policeman. For over 20 years I proudly served in that role doing my very best to serve and protect the community. I believed back then, and still do today, in three inescapable truths that should guide our police policy: innocent people should be protected; perpetrators of crime should be punished; and our police should be provided with what they need to get that job done. Today, it is unfathomable just how far removed those principles have become. We are in the midst of a crime crisis. Queenslanders are living in fear while youth criminals no longer fear the law. The thin blue line has never been thinner. There are now 232 fewer police than there were only 18 months ago. Police are calling in sick or hiding in their stations, fearful of being targeted by repeat youth offenders who know they are untouchable. According to a senior police officer quoted in the *Courier-Mail* today—

There isn't appropriate punishment and police are sick and tired of being the last line of defence and bashing our heads against brick walls because we are doing everything in our power and nothing gets done. No wonder police are leaving in droves.

I was on the front line in 2015 and 2016 when this Labor government started watering down the youth justice laws. Since then, crime has soared, sending the number of repeat serious, violent young offenders and unfortunately the number of victims, skyrocketing. Since Labor was elected nine years ago, there has been a 116 per cent increase in stolen vehicles, a 54 per cent increase in unlawful entry, and a staggering 225 per cent increase in assaults. Police are tearing their hair out that the weak laws of this state are preventing them from doing their job. They have even been forced to keep a secret spreadsheet to track all the hours they spend plugging holes in other failing government services.

From my first speech in this House, I have said that I believe a government's highest priority should be the safety and security of its citizens. Labor has the wrong priorities and do not take youth crime seriously. Only the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future, including making our community safe. We have put solutions on the table to start tackling Queensland's youth crime crisis, including creating consequences for actions, unshackling the judiciary by removing detention as a last resort, and delivering gold standard early intervention, and just this week we have seen Labor block critical reforms that would have made a real difference.

For as long as I am in this place and particularly in this role, I will use these as my guiding principles to develop policies that rebalance the scales of justice to keep Queenslanders and our police officers safe. If this government will not keep communities safe across Queensland, we will.