




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Youth Crime

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.25 pm): I am happy to start where the Minister for Agriculture suggested we should, with 'once upon a time'. Unfortunately the story I am going to tell is not a fairytale; it is a nightmare. It started on 1 December 2015, not long after Labor won power and they tabled their first youth justice amendment bill as part of a series that overtly watered down the laws in this state. Fast-forward nearly a decade to this week and what we have are a few inescapable truths: people across Queensland are not only struggling to pay their bills but they feel unsafe; and there is a proof point that the government care more about politics than people, they care more about how things look than how they are, and they will do and say anything to hold on to power.

A proof point to me was on Tuesday, when the Premier came to the victims' rally I was at outside and he spoke to Russell Field. After being introduced to Russell Field by name, he did not know who he was but he pretended to. It turns out that he did not. I have no great gripe with the Premier of this state not knowing the name of every victim of crime in this state, knowing that last year alone there were almost 350,000 of them—an explosion of 130,000 from not that long ago. However, it was the Field family's tragedy that this government stood on the back of after Australia Day 2021 to make a tough-on-crime youth justice announcement which has proved to be another epic fail. It was an announcement with no teeth. It was about GPS trackers. The figures show that that trial has been an absolute failure. Youth crime across the state has continued to spiral out of control.

He made promises to victims. He made promises to victims who were at that rally and to a contingent he met afterwards, including the Field family, that he would take strong action. They have been calling for strong action for a long time. They have been demanding this government remove provisions in the Youth Justice Act they introduced in 2015. The Premier has made promises to victims of crime. He promised them he would take tough action and that he would rewrite the mistakes his government made in 2015. We woke up—and victims like the Field family woke up—on Wednesday morning to another announcement, another tough-on-crime announcement, another announcement they had been demanding, only to find out a few hours later that, similar to 2021, the announcement was all talk and no action. This Premier promised to remove detention as a last resort and he failed to do so. Rewording it is not removing it, and he needs to apologise to victims across Queensland today.