




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Youth Justice

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.32 pm): The highest priority of any government is the safety and security of its citizens. The question Queenslanders will ask themselves at this election is: are you safer and more secure now than you were when this government came to office almost a decade ago, and who has the right plan for Queensland's future?

Labor's top priority when they won office almost a decade ago was to proudly water down the youth justice laws. Fast-forward to today and Queenslanders are living with the devastating impact of these weaker laws—the number of innocent victims has reached record highs and there are shocking rates of crime being committed across Queensland. Labor came to power in 2015 and Queensland now has the unenviable title of crime capital of Australia—the most victims of any state and youth offending rates three times higher than other states like New South Wales.

In Townsville—the epicentre of the crime crisis—robberies are up 287 per cent and stolen cars are up 103 per cent. In Bundaberg and Rockhampton, stolen cars are up 282 per cent and 226 respectively. In Caloundra and Nambour and across the Sunshine Coast they are up 100 per cent. We know that these statistics are not a media beat-up. Behind every crime is a victim—a victim who has been touched by crime and may never be the same. Too many families and communities have been torn apart by the crime crisis created by this government. Queenslanders have read too many tragic headlines of innocent victims of crime and innocent lives lost: Vyleen White, Emma Lovell, Matt Field and Kate Leadbetter.

The right of young repeat violent offenders to harass, victimise and terrorise innocent families and communities with immunity is no longer acceptable. Regardless of a person's age, if they can steal a car, drive it dangerously and ram police, or if they can invade a home and stab someone with a knife, they are committing adult crimes and they should serve adult time. Make no mistake: if Queenslanders vote for change next month, the highest priority of a David Crisafulli-led government will be the safety and security of all Queenslanders. We will put victims' rights ahead of offenders' rights. We will embed consequences for actions. We will not give violent criminals an inch.

Only the LNP has the right plan for Queensland's future. We trust our hardworking police and we will give them the laws and the resources they need to do their job and keep us safe. An LNP government will make essential changes to the Youth Justice Act. Our Making Queensland Safer Laws will be introduced before the end of the year. Our Adult Crime, Adult Time policy will restore consequences for actions and will send a clear message to wannabe young criminals that crime does not pay.

Time is up for Labor. The only way to fix the Labor crime crisis is to vote for change at the next election and show Labor the door in 2024.