



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2024

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Youth Crime; Member for Broadwater**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The Youth Crime crisis is impacting every corner of this state. We have seen it in the north and out to the west, and over the weekend we saw a proud border town ripped apart by the madness that is the youth crime crisis in this state. I want to go to a quote from the Premier from April—

We'll throw everything at preventing and disrupting crime—that starts with having more police than ever before patrolling the streets of Queensland.

I want to read about one hour of madness on Saturday night. The document states—

At 3.50am ... police attempted to intercept a white ford Everest vehicle stolen from NSW. As police have attempted to intercept the vehicle they are not allowed to try and intercept the vehicle again for a further four hours unless the known circumstances change.

At 4.40 am ... unknown offenders have attended a local motel and have forced a door. Offenders have stolen the keys to a vehicle but were unable to start the vehicle. One of the offenders is armed with a large machete.

At 4.55 am ... unknown offenders have attended a local motel and have forced entry to a room. A 75 year old lady was assaulted by the offender by kicking her in the chest. Offenders have taken keys and have stolen a Mazda vehicle and the victim's handbag.

As a local resident told when more than 100 gathered in the park with next to no notice, 'This town is in shock.' 'We feel helpless with a weak state government that does nothing for us.' Another young mother told her story about being in such shock she miscarried.

The Premier said there are 18 police officers in Goondiwindi and that the commissioner had sent for more, but today we hear from whistleblowers there are currently only nine available, half the allotted strength. How have we reached this point in Queensland? We respect and value and thank the police for being able to mobilise and go into hotspots. Wouldn't it be amazing if there was the right number of officers there in the first place?

This morning we heard a distressing story about a family with three kids who had their caravan stolen while they were in it. I repeat: that was while they were in the caravan. There were reports that earlier the spare keys to their car were stolen. They attached the caravan to the car thinking this would prevent a theft. They were to be the crime victim for the second time in a day. The car was stolen with the caravan attached and the family inside. A witness said the criminals basically kidnapped them. It has been reported that, luckily, the family escaped with minor injuries, but they have been traumatised. Police have found them emergency accommodation—and aren't we thankful for those officers who wear blue?

Overnight in Graceville over a dozen businesses were broken into; a community is in shock and business owners and their staff are in tears. Our promise to the owners and staff of those businesses is that things will change: adult crime, adult time. There must be consequences for actions because the generation of untouchables are running riot through this state. We have weaker laws and fewer police officers and the only thing rising faster than insurance premiums is the number of victims in this state.

Let's go through an analysis of Queensland Police Service statistics comparing 2015-16 to 2023-24. There was an increase in 53 of the 55 categories across the 11 major cities—53 of 55. Townsville robberies are up 287 per cent; Bundaberg stolen cars, 282 per cent; Rockhampton assaults, 253 per cent; Gold Coast assaults, 136 per cent; Brisbane stolen cars, up 120 per cent in less than a decade under this government and their watered down laws.

If government changes by the end of the year the Making Queensland Safer Laws will be law and that will embed Adult Crime, Adult Time. It will remove detention as a last resort. It will embed in sentencing provisions that the rights of the victim will come before the rights of the offender. Victims will be given visibility—what is happening with their case—because if justice is going to be done it must be seen to be done. Courtrooms will be open. That is not about identification; that is about justice being seen to be done, not the cobbled down, watered down version that we are seeing at the moment.

We will get serious about gold standard early intervention, the kind that turns kids around and gives kids hope. I never speak about the youth crime crisis without talking about giving kids a second chance, hope to turn their life around with discipline and structure. We talk about a resi-care system that has discipline, that has the ability for extracurricular activities, that has the opportunities for a kid to get into foster care or adoption to give them love and give them compassion. We will embark on rehabilitation with purpose. When we hear revelations that half the young offenders leaving detention do not even have a 72-hour plan, that tells us everything we need to know about a government in chaos and in crisis. Our commitment if government changes is that every young offender who leaves youth detention will have a 12-month plan. It will give them a chance to turn their life around. It will stop the 91 per cent reoffending rate. It will not be perfect for all people, but it will be better than 91 per cent and victim numbers will not be at 290,000, which is higher than New South Wales and Victoria despite their populations. That is our commitment to Queenslanders.

Finally, on commitment to Queenslanders, this is an opposition that is committed, focused and unified to focus on the things that Queenslanders are talking to us about. I want to address whatever that was we saw this morning. I tell honourable members that the Labor Party has reverted to form today and it has become increasingly clear that they are incapable of addressing the crises that are hurting Queenslanders and they have decided to get into the gutter with desperate attacks on me. History tells us these attacks will continue, and we predicted they would because that is all they have.

This issue has been used by the ALP since 2017. The details of this settlement have been publicly available for several years. For years they have made the same allegation and the facts remain the same. I came into a company in substantial trouble on the promise of a capital injection. I was at the company for four months and I met my obligations during—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Apologies, Leader of the Opposition. Member for Mudgeeraba and member for Waterford, you will cease your quarrelling across the chamber. The member on his feet is attempting to give an explanation. I for one would like to hear that. I will warn people who interject from here on.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I met my obligations during and after this period. There were zero findings against me. Those opposite know this and they know that the information they are referring to has been public for several years. It is strange that they would wait until the final six sitting days to try and resuscitate claims in the dying days of a term. We have seen this all before.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, you are warned.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is the desperation of a government that has run out of steam and a government that has no direction and, most importantly, no plan for the future of Queensland. We are choosing hope over fear. How many times have I stood here and said that the more the government becomes desperate, the more aggressive the government gets, the more I will choose hope over fear? The battlelines for the election are clear: after a decade—

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Miller is warned.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—of this government, are things better or worse when it comes to youth crime, health, housing and cost of living, and who has the right plans for Queensland's future? They are the battlelines. There is one other question: after 10 years of chaos, after 10 years of crises, has this government finally decided to abandon the priorities of Queenslanders?

*(Time expired)*