




Speech By
Hon. David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER BILL

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (10.29 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. My contribution tonight is unlike so many of my contributions on this topic over the years. Those past contributions have been built on frustration. They have been built on frustration with a government that simply was not listening to victims and was not addressing the community's concern. My community is no different to so many other communities around Queensland. Tonight, as I rise to speak to this bill, it is satisfying to know that the Crisafulli government is finally taking steps, calmly and methodically, to address some of the community safety concerns that have ravaged so many communities across Queensland.

Listening to so many of the first speeches from our outstanding new members of parliament has rammed home for me how important this issue is to so many people around Queensland. They have been outstanding first speeches. It is an absolute credit to all of our new members of parliament. Of course, the speech of the former shadow attorney-general—now the health minister—was pretty good, too. I reflect on the most powerful speech of all: that of the member for Capalaba. There is barely a word to describe the advocacy of the member for Capalaba. We welcome him here. Across the board, so many of the new members of parliament who have spoken—the members for Thuringowa, Townsville, Maryborough, Mundingburra, Hervey Bay, Mackay, Redlands and Pumicestone—I am not going to go through everyone—

A government member: There are a lot!

Mr JANETZKI: There are a lot. There are so many, but what is obvious is that there was a common theme for each one of our new members of parliament. Community safety and fighting for their community bonded each one of them. The home that I love so much is absolutely no different.

I think back to the times over the last couple of years when I have spoken in this House in utter frustration that a government had failed. I spent three years as shadow attorney-general and I recall so many times speaking in this House about those opposite and their attempts. I think this is the second time the shadow youth justice minister has been recycled. She was moved on once, failed elsewhere, came back at the start of the 2023 to be the youth justice minister and is now the shadow youth justice minister.

I think of the failures. I think about 17-year-olds who went in the youth justice system without any modelling. I remember that the Police Union chief at the time said there was more planning for a McDonald's store than there was when the former government brought 17-year-olds into the youth justice system. Then you had the breach-of-bail laws constantly being changed. You had police resourcing targets missed—1,127 fewer police than were promised at the 2020 election by those opposite. Does anyone remember bail houses? That was an outrageous failure. It was going to cost \$70 million and the recidivism rate was at 90 per cent, if I recall correctly. Every single time those opposite in government tried to do something, they had not thought through the consequences. They had not done the modelling. They had not done the work.

Mr Minnikin: Thought bubbles!

Mr JANETZKI: It was thought bubbles. I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. It was never a clear, coherent, calm and methodical approach. Youth justice moved between departments five times. The youth justice minister whom I referred to who had been recycled gave the most expensive interview in Australian television history—an interview on *Four Corners* that ended up costing the then government \$500 million.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: No, there was no Walkley. What a contrast to today. I acknowledge the contribution of both of those shadow ministers when we were in opposition who are now ministers in government—the youth justice minister and the child safety minister—the Attorney-General and the police minister.

The work that we did in opposition has now been brought to fruition in this bill. It is a comprehensive bill that has been worked on closely. It has been driven by listening to victims. I look at the key changes. Of course there is Adult Crime, Adult Time. There is also the prioritisation of victims' rights and changes to sentencing, youth justice reforms, media and victim access—all driven by putting the victim first rather than the perpetrator.

I will speak personally on behalf of my community because my community has suffered as much as any other. You would never have thought that Toowoomba would become the centre of a youth crime crisis, but that is exactly what has happened over the last few years. We have had 10,000 offences in five years for children between aged 10 and 17 years. One youth offender racked up 114 charged offences. We had the death on the main street of our city of Robert Brown. The premier at the time would not come and face a public forum in our city—failure of leadership. I recall speaking to the opposition leader at the time. I said, 'What would you have done?' The now Premier said that he would have come and talked to the people. That shows the character of the Premier we have and it shows the weakness and indecision of those opposite that was on display for so long on this issue—

A government member: And is now.

Mr JANETZKI: And is now—in their equivocation and in their criticisms tonight and over the last couple of days. It is on display again now.

I remember there was one six-week period when in my electorate pretty much all I did was to meet with victims of crime. I will read their names because I remember them and I have written them down: Ken, Daniel, Sarah, Vicky, Ashley, Kate, George, Andrew, Emily, Miles, Vicki, Greg, Jan and Ann-Marie. People were coming into my office wanting to share their concern. I remember at the time speaking about this one incident of young children in their bedrooms while young offenders were trying to knock down the front door, screaming, 'Give us your keys. Give us your keys.' The children who were barricaded in their bedrooms thought these offenders were yelling out, 'Give us your kids. Give us your kids.' I remember the elderly couple who came to see me who would stand guard. One would stay awake while the other would sleep. Young children would have baseball bats under their beds and were seeing psychologists because of the trauma. All the while, those opposite butchered the youth crime laws in our state. They failed to act and they failed to listen to the victims of crime.

Mr Crandon: They were in denial.

Mr JANETZKI: They were in denial. The issues surrounding crime are complex and that is why I am delighted that the work of the youth justice minister is sending a clear message; we have to make it absolutely clear that there are consequences for actions and we will prioritise the rights of victims over those of the perpetrators but there is also a place for early intervention and at-risk intervention. That is why we have such a comprehensive strategy to address this problem, and that was rolled out across the election campaign.

I say to the people of my community that our new government of which I am honoured to be a part, will not just change the law to make our community safer; we will invest in the future of our young children for a better Queensland.