



Speech By  
**Laura Gerber**


**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Currumbin Electorate, Fight 4 Youth

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.07 pm): Over the past couple of months I have travelled this state to speak with stakeholders about youth crime. In particular, I have travelled this state to speak with community-based organisations that are delivering what I would call gold standard early intervention programs. What I have discovered is that many of these fantastic non-government charities or community-based organisations that are working tirelessly to step up and address the youth crime crisis gripping our state do not receive any ongoing funding from the state government. Due to the rising costs because of the cost-of-living crisis, many of these fantastic organisations are struggling to keep their doors open. One of these organisations is a local charity in my own backyard of Currumbin. I have spoken about the great work that it does many times in this House, and I have written to the minister more times than I can count to advocate for funding for it. I am talking about Fight 4 Youth, run by the wonderful Leisa Logan—a charity that receives no ongoing state funding. Despite reaching out to the government for support and my continued advocacy for it, it is now at risk of closing its doors due to the rising costs because of the cost-of-living crisis and a lack of funding from the state government.

Fight 4 Youth is an early intervention charity making a real difference on the ground to the safety of our community with its inclusive, multicultural youth centre, which supports both youth at risk of becoming offenders and coming into contact with the youth justice system and youths who are already in the youth justice system and serious repeat offenders. It provides a diverse range of youth programs including a school-based suspension program, crime prevention for young offenders, life skills for disengaged youth and community service programs. Leisa and her team have been running these youth programs for free for the last 8½ years, donating their time and skills to strengthening relationships in our communities and reducing youth crime and antisocial behaviour. It has partnered with the local QPS and also our schools to deliver its suspension program.

Fight 4 Youth is at risk of closing its doors because of a lack of funding. It is at risk of not being able to continue to deliver these services. I say to the state government and to the youth justice minister that if they are serious about trying to address youth crime and if they are serious about early intervention programs, they need to start funding early intervention programs that are delivering gold standard early intervention in our communities. These organisations are doing the job of the state government. They are turning the lives of youth around and they deserve funding from the state government. In a last-ditch effort, I want to tell the House that it is holding a fundraiser. Tickets are only \$30, so if you can come along please support it. It is on 31 May from 5 pm. It is called Fight for a Cause.