




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Crime

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.06 pm): Break and enters, stolen cars, lives being senselessly lost: Queensland's record on crime is nothing to be proud of. Yesterday the ABS released the Australian crime victimisation report and the data is abundantly clear: you are more likely to be a victim of crime in Queensland than anywhere else in Australia. Instead of working to make our community safer, Labor is turning a blind eye and allowing Queenslanders to live in fear in their own homes, in their local shopping centres and in their schools.

The figures are clear: Queensland had the most victims of physical assault in the country. The numbers are horrifying: 98,600 victims of assault in Queensland in the last financial year. While the Premier this morning was proud of that achievement, the members on this side of the House do not accept it. This is an increase of over 10,000 more victims than in any other state, and that is just for physical assault. In fact, Queensland is the only state where the number of victims of assault increased in the last financial year and the only state where it has increased since Labor came to power in 2015.

It gets worse: Queensland had the highest increase in threatened assault and the most victims of breaks-in and attempted break-ins. We are again the only state in Australia where this has increased since Labor came to power in 2015, yet the Premier refuses to acknowledge it. Crime is getting worse in Queensland while in other states it is decreasing. Behind every single one of these statistics is a real victim who is suffering, who has been let down by this state Labor government—victims like Gary. Gary, a 14-year-old boy, wrote to the government earlier this month. He said—

I am an autistic 14 year old boy who was attacked on Saturday afternoon for my shoes and my hat. I was also beaten ...

When speaking with police they know one of the kids well ... he had not long gotten out of juvenile detention and is well known to them.

... being autistic it is hard for me to process things normally and this has also been hard on my mum too.

More needs to be done as I saved all my pocket money and what I was given for my birthday and Christmas for the things that I had stolen.

...

Since the attack my anxiety has been out of sorts ... 2 kids ... turned up at my school asking for me but thankfully the school said I wasn't there.

My mum fears for my safety since they know which school I attend ...

I am writing this letter as a victim of crime and a survivor. I would like this to be known that as a youth that it needs to be fixed and how flawed the youth justice is.

I will table the whole of Gary's harrowing letter so that everyone in this House knows.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 6 March 2024, to the ministers of the Queensland parliament [432](#).

Victims should not be suffering through this. Gary should not be suffering through this. Victims of crime deserve more than a state Labor government that is going to continue to ignore the crime problem that is plaguing our state.

(Time expired)