




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Youth Crime

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.13 pm): A lot has been said this week about community safety, but the most notable voices this week are the voices of victims—victims who have walked these streets to march on parliament to have their voices heard and victims who reach out every day to the opposition to share their stories and their frustrations with a government that will not listen. Many have told their stories of not feeling supported. Many have told their stories of the frustrations of having to wait 12 to 18 months for applications for financial assistance to be considered. Many have had their lives dramatically changed by crime. The way members of this government sought to pull the wool over the eyes of victims with their deceit and their backflipping was absolutely disgraceful. This government will say and do anything to cling onto power. Members opposite will say and do anything to control the narrative. It is all about the politics when it comes to this state government.

To save their political skin, they will backflip on absolutely anything—on something for which they have held long-held values. Why? It is all about the headlines when it comes to this state government. It is all about controlling the narrative and the headline. Queenslanders have stopped believing this Labor government because they are living through the youth crime crisis that is ripping through this state. They are living through it day in, day out.

This week, the Attorney-General stood in this chamber and tried to stop us from giving a voice to the victims who marched outside parliament—the same Attorney-General who proudly introduced the laws that weakened our youth justice laws on day three of this government coming to power 10 years ago. Mr Deputy Speaker, do you know what I think? I think six months out from an election this is a government trying to control the narrative. This is a government trying to control the headlines to save its own political skin. I think Queenslanders can see straight through it.

Queenslanders have stopped believing the rhetoric. Queenslanders have given up on this stale third-term government that has stopped listening to them. The government is in a desperate bid to hold on to power. In a desperate bid, they are misleading Queenslanders. There is more concern for their electoral safety than there is to listening to the voices of victims. In contrast, the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are constant interjections from some government members on one of our female members trying to do her job. This is disgusting.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! The House will remain orderly while I am taking a point of order. Member, I will manage the conduct of the House, and I have been doing that. There is no point of order.

Mrs GERBER: The LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future. We will restore consequences for action in the Youth Justice Act. We will divert young lives from crime by reforming early intervention and fixing the broken residential care system. Queenslanders need to show Labor the door in 2024.

(Time expired)