




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

MOTION

Crime Statistics

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.47 pm): I want honourable members to put themselves in this circumstance. It is the middle of the night. There are two cars prowling the street outside their house. They are stalking their next victim. Eight juvenile offenders jump out of those cars. They are wearing masks, they are carrying machetes and long knives. They sprint to their house. They try to open the car door. When that does not work, they try to kick down their front door. They come up to their camera and they brazenly turn it away. This is what happened in Currumbin Waters over the weekend and these juveniles returned three days later to terrorise this community again. Youth criminals are running riot through our community in Currumbin Waters and right across the state, and they are getting away with it because under this Labor government there are no consequences for their actions. The latest annual data reveals there were 11,191 child offenders in Queensland in 2022-23. That is an increase of 557 child offenders in 12 months. On top of that, serious repeat offending has increased 62 per cent.

These are the facts. These are the undeniable facts that our Queensland communities are living with. Since Labor came to power in 2015, unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 101 per cent, assault is up 198 per cent and robbery is up 123 per cent. Why? How did we get here? I spoke with the residents of Currumbin Waters and they said that they did not feel unsafe like this five years ago. They did not feel like they were going to be terrorised in their own homes five years ago, so how did we get to this point where kids carrying machetes and breaking into homes is normalised in our communities? I will tell members: in 2015 now Premier Miles, alongside the former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, made a decision to introduce legislation to water down our Youth Justice Act. They made detention a sentence of last resort and this has meant that over the last nine years our courts have been unable to remove youths as a sentence of first resort. They have had to go through the linear process of imposing every other sentence available under the Youth Justice Act before they can remove that youth from our community and that has resulted in the revolving door of crime. This has resulted in youth offenders becoming serious repeat offenders and then for youth offenders having to have at least 70 offences before they are removed and put into detention.

Labor has created a generation of repeat young offenders who know the laws are weak and who know that they will get away with terrorising our communities, and these are not just statistics. There are victims behind every single one of these, and that is the number that matters—almost 300,000 victims of crime in this state over the last year. That is the number that matters. The LNP's Making Queensland Safer laws will restore consequences for action. Adult Crime, Adult Time will ensure that juveniles—

Mr Harper interjected.

Mrs GERBER: Member for Thuringowa, I hear you objecting. Your community is riddled with crime. It is screaming out for Adult Crime, Adult Time—screaming out for it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair, member.

Mrs GERBER: This will mean that the people of Townsville—the residents of Townsville who have seen a 99 per cent increase in unlawful entry—will be able to rest a little easier under an LNP government. Adult Crime, Adult Time will mean that the people in Rockhampton who have seen a 253 per cent increase in assault under Labor will feel a little safer. It will mean that the residents of Toowoomba who have seen a 226 per cent increase in robbery under Labor can feel a little bit safer. Only an LNP Crisafulli-led government will deliver the Making Queensland Safer laws. Only an LNP Crisafulli-led government will deliver the Staying on Track program and our Adult Crime, Adult Time. Queenslanders have to vote for change in October to get these laws.