




Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Community Safety

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.38 am): Every Queenslander deserves to be safe and to feel safe—in their homes, in their communities or at the shops. To me, community safety comes first. I know from travelling the state and listening to Queenslanders that more needs to be done. That is why today I am releasing the Community Safety Plan for Queensland. It is our plan to support victims, deliver for the front line, detain offenders to protect the community, intervene early and prevent crime before it occurs. The plan has been informed by my travels around the state alongside the police minister and Police Commissioner, of meeting with—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left.

Mr MILES: The plan has been informed by my travels around the state alongside the police minister and Police Commissioner, of meeting with frontline police and youth support workers and victims of crime, and engaging—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Premier.

Mr MILES: The plan has been informed by my travels around the state, alongside the police minister and Police Commissioner, of meeting with frontline police and youth support workers and victims of crime, and engaging with the experts. This is our plan to chart a path towards a safer Queensland, grounded in decisive action, and it is backed by \$1.28 billion in new evidence-based, whole-of-government initiatives. We will invest in 900 extra police personnel, on top of the existing—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Premier. Members to my left, I need to hear the ministerial statement. I ask you to cease your interjections. I will start naming members.

Mr MILES: We will invest in 900 extra police personnel, on top of the existing commitment to boost the front line by 2025. It includes more support for victims of crime response organisations, including the office of the Victims' Commissioner. We are providing more funding for the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group, Crime Stoppers Queensland, Neighbourhood Watch Queensland and the Stop the Coward Punch Campaign. We are extending and expanding the successful youth co-responder team program. The plan also includes a commitment to make the youth justice taskforce a permanent capability of the Queensland Police. New legislation will make ramming an emergency vehicle an offence, as well as new dangerous driving offences.

We have announced new Polair capabilities for Cairns, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay; new and upgraded police resources like police stations and a bigger, better Townsville Police Academy; and a boost to domestic and family violence support services funding by 20 per cent.

Today, I can announce we will deliver a new PCYC in the growing Caloundra region and continue our investment in successful PCYC programs. We are investing in supports to keep students engaged in school and gain skills, education and qualifications to enter the workforce. We will leverage our existing Better Care Together plan to invest in mental health, alcohol and other drug services to divert people away from drug and alcohol use because our comprehensive Community Safety Plan does not just respond to crime when it occurs, it also addresses the root causes to stop crime happening in the first place. Sadly, we know that most young offenders have complex backgrounds rooted in generational disadvantage: 53 per cent are impacted by domestic and family violence; 48 per cent are not enrolled in education, training or employment; 44 per cent have one or more disabilities; 38 per cent of youths in custody have used ice or methamphetamine in the past; and 26 per cent have a parent who has been in custody.

Our Community Safety Plan for Queensland brings together education, health, sport, housing, community services, domestic violence and child protection services to deliver wraparound prevention, intervention and detention supports. This is a comprehensive plan rooted in decisive action, not just a slick slogan. It is informed by genuine consultation with experts, frontline workers and communities that puts victims and their experiences at the centre and backed by significant investments. This year, thanks largely to the efforts of our police, we have already seen a 10.7 per cent decrease in overall offences committed by young people. While it is early days, I want to see this trend continue. We will measure and evaluate the success of our efforts to ensure our plan works and that we build safer communities for Queensland. Together, we will make a change for the better.