



Speech By  
**Hon. Amanda Camm**


**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Child Protection**

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.22 am): Everyone has a right to feel safe, whether it is walking the streets of their communities, in the shopping centre purchasing their groceries or in their home day or night. That feeling of safety in your home is twofold, and in my role as Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence this is what drives me each and every day.

In my capacity as the child safety minister, I am charged with delivering interventions for children with extremely complex and traumatic histories—children who are living in the out-of-home care system who have fallen into the youth justice system; children who are now deemed serious repeat offenders. Many of these children have no parent other than the state. For a decade these children were neglected by the former Labor government and by four former ministers—no real plan of action to deal with their complex needs, no desire to end the cycle of offending and abuse. In fact many of those opposite delivered the youth crime crisis through their failure to address those children in the child safety system.

I can report that 111 of the 388 serious repeat offenders are in out-of-home care. There are also 222 children under strict supervised youth justice orders in the care of Child Safety. According to the 2024 census on children in out-of-home care on supervised youth justice orders: 67 per cent have been in the care of the state for longer than five years; 77 per cent have had more than four placements; 72 per cent have been excluded or suspended from school; 56 per cent have self-harmed; 40 per cent have attempted suicide; and 70 per cent have a diagnosed or suspected disability. You can see how children with these backgrounds and complex needs end up on the streets committing crime. Those opposite did nothing. Delivering a residential care road map to nowhere left these children turning to a life of crime and falling into the youth justice system.

That feeling of safety in your home is not just restricted to young criminals breaking in and stealing your property and cars or attempting rape or sexual assault; it also expands to domestic and family violence—abuse perpetrated behind closed doors, unseen, unheard. Many of these children are now another generation perpetrating violence. The correlation between domestic and family violence and children ending up in the out-of-home care system is astounding, with 68 per cent of children who are now in care having been impacted by domestic and family violence, yet those opposite spent barely any funding on early intervention or the prevention of domestic and family violence in their time in government.

The recently announced Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System will independently investigate the connection between serious repeat offenders and other vulnerable children in the out-of-home care system. We must understand the connection between these children, the out-of-home

care system and the youth justice system. The previous government did not care enough or, worse still, did not want to know about these children and as a result there is a lack of meaningful data collated on the correlation.

We have taken action. Today marks six months since the Making Queensland Safer Laws became law. We will take action and deliver on behalf of all Queenslanders. Last night, Jack's Law was made permanent and that law is readily accepted and welcomed across communities, including mine in Mackay and the Whitsundays. Let Queenslanders never forget that those opposite created the youth crime crisis, with multiple ministers for child safety failing in their obligation and duties. The Crisafulli LNP government is committed to delivering the change that Queenslanders and vulnerable children deserve.