




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli
MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Youth Crime

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.36 am): Queenslanders were promised action to address youth crime in the first 100 days of this government. We delivered on that commitment. Adult Crime, Adult Time is now law—the first step toward restoring safety where Queenslanders live. After 10 years of neglect under Labor there is no overnight fix, but we will not stop until there are fewer victims of crime—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I will be filling out the warning paper very early in the day, it would appear, if this behaviour continues.

Mr CRISAFULLI: After 10 years of neglect under Labor, there is no overnight fix, but we will not stop until there are fewer victims of crime in Queensland. We heard Queenslanders. They want youth offenders to face consequences for their actions. They want justice to be served. So, we must continue to take action on crime and keep working to make our community safer.

Already this year, we have appointed an expert legal panel to help further strengthen the Making Queensland Safer Laws. But we also want to see at-risk youths given the best chance to move away from a life of crime. That is why, alongside the new laws, our government will deliver early intervention and rehabilitation programs, including the Staying on Track and Regional Reset programs. We want to put young people back on the right track and reduce rates of reoffending.

Under Labor, youth detention centres were treated like a revolving door and reoffending rates just kept skyrocketing. Today I can reveal the latest youth justice data from September 2024. It shows 94 per cent of youth offenders released from detention reoffended within 12 months. That is 94 per cent. Almost all youth criminals were back on the streets in less than one year, stealing cars, breaking into homes or even worse. It is no surprise then that rates of serious repeat offenders also increased under Labor. In 2019, serious repeat offenders represented nine per cent of youth offenders.

Ms Grace: Nonsense.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for McConnel who said, 'Nonsense', the same member who denied the youth crime crisis. I will take the interjection. They are still in denial about a youth crime crisis they created, still in denial about the carnage they created, and still the member for McConnel doubles down on what we saw for 10 years.

Queenslanders now have a front-row seat to a former government that for 10 years denied a problem—for 10 years. I will take the interjection. I always do because the member for McConnel is the cheerleader for those opposite who are denying the problem exists.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. By 2024 the number of serious repeat offenders had grown and one in five youth criminals were classed as serious repeat offenders. Last year almost half of previous offences were committed by serious repeat offenders. These figures show just how critical it is that we turn kids away from crime and help them get back on the right track. That is exactly what our government's Staying on Track program is all about. Staying on Track will deliver a 12-month rehabilitation program for youth exiting detention. I can advise the House that tenders for the Staying on Track program are now open—the next step in our plan to tackle youth crime. We want to help young people reintegrate into their communities. We want to see them turn their lives around and put an end to the detention merry-go-round we have seen. Ninety-four per cent of repeat youth offenders is a figure no Queenslander will accept. We want to see them turn their life around. That means we need to make sure that they get the support and skills they need to build a positive future.

Mr Speaker, the consequences of youth crime are felt deeply in cities, in towns, in homes, in businesses, in parks and in streets. This government is determined to do something about it. We are working hard to make our community safer, just as we said we would. It will take time to break the cycle of crime but we will not hesitate to put victims of crime first and, unlike those opposite, we will work every day to make sure that the youth crime crisis created by Labor is fixed by the LNP.