



Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Victims of Crime

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.48 am): Our government is committed to prioritising victims and putting their rights first. We promised we would reduce victim numbers and be transparent about that and that is exactly what we are delivering. Queensland police data for the first six months of 2025 show victim numbers have fallen 5.7 per cent compared with the first six months of last year—a small but significant step in the right direction after a decade of decline under Labor.

We inherited a system that did not put victims first. In 10 months our government has worked hard to prioritise victims and ensure consequences for actions. Adult Crime, Adult Time was law before Christmas and further offences were added earlier this year. Jack's Law is permanent, helping take dangerous weapons off our streets. Consultation is underway on our government's new Victims Advocate Service to provide support and help victims navigate the justice system. Significant reforms to domestic violence legislation have allowed police the power to offer immediate protection to victims and trial GPS devices for high-risk offenders.

To help more victims we have invested \$31.3 million to double the capacity of both Womensline and Mensline and deliver a new regional hub in North Queensland. In October last year, if you rang the Womensline, the critical service called by women in crisis, you had a less than 50 per cent chance of having someone answer your call. Since this government's intervention, the call response rates have increased significantly between April and June 2025. We must continue to increase this rate.

Last night, our government passed significant amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act. These changes will put victims of crime back at the heart of the justice process. Our reforms will ensure criminal sentencing processes prioritise victims and better meet community expectations. The use of good-character evidence will now be restricted during the sentencing of sexual offences. Victims should not have to hear that their offender is a 'good bloke'. Labor had 10 years to deliver these changes—10 years—but did not. Now, during sentencing, courts will also be required to recognise the harm to victims.

We are leading the nation, delivering the strongest child protection framework in the country. We have launched an historic commission of inquiry into child safety and a review into the blue card system and have fast-tracked the reportable conduct scheme. Our government has also led the charge for a national early childhood educator register. Our strong action proves we are delivering justice for victims. We know that there is much more to be done and I promise Queenslanders that that work will continue.