



Speech By  
**Hon. Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Youth Crime, Data**

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (10.02 am): It was just five months ago that Queenslanders emphatically booted the Miles government out of office—fed up with the watered-down youth justice laws that created a generation of untouchables. For a decade Queenslanders have lived with the consequences of Labor's weakened youth crime laws, yet the opposition leader and his former ministers denied there was a problem.

I can give the House some facts. In Labor's last full year in office, 2023-24, there were nearly 17,000 criminal lodgements in the Childrens Court, the highest of any Australian state and territory. Shockingly, or perhaps not for those Queenslanders who had been a victim of this crisis, Queensland's youth crime figures were 46 per cent higher than the second highest state, Victoria. In 2023-24 criminal lodgements in the Queensland Childrens Court per capita were 17 per cent higher than a decade ago in 2014-15. During that time, the total per capita rate for criminal lodgements in children's courts across Australia decreased 20 per cent, but in Queensland, under those opposite, they were 17 per cent higher. Those statistics are Labor's legacy and they are an absolute disgrace. For the thousands of victims, whether they are in Townsville, Cairns, Capalaba, Mount Isa or right across this state, they are no surprise. They have felt the impacts of Labor's crime crisis day in, day out for a decade.

Just five months into our government's term we are starting to see, very slowly, the tide turn because of our Making Queensland Safer Laws. Court statistics show that defendants charged with Making Queensland Safer offences are allegedly committing more offences than defendants who are charged for other offending. I will say that again for those opposite, but in particular for the member for Gaven who really did embarrass herself yesterday by saying our new tough crime laws were not working. What that means, shadow attorney-general, is that the offences Premier Crisafulli took to the election, the offences that Queenslanders told us were a priority, are those offences that are being committed by the hardcore, the repeat, the untouchable criminals in this state.

Between 13 December 2023 and 14 March 2024 there were 2,105 cases containing specific offences targeted by the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time. Over the same period this year, we have seen 665 fewer cases lodged. That is a 32 per cent reduction. Crime statistics and victim numbers in this state are heading in one direction under the Crisafulli government and that is down.

But there is more to do. We know that we must do more—we have always said that—and that is why there will be a second tranche of offences included in our Making Queensland Safer Laws. The question is will those opposite back them. We know the debacle they went through last time. Will they stand on the side of victims or will they stand on the side of youth criminals?