



Speech By  
**John Barounis**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2025

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Maryborough, Fatal Car Accident**

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (2.23 pm): I rise today to speak about the tragic event that occurred in my electorate two years ago. Yesterday marked two years since the tragedy that forever changed the Maryborough community, a day we will never forget. On this day two years ago a 13-year-old boy made a devastating decision. He stole a car from another town and drove it to Maryborough. On the outskirts of the town he collided with another vehicle causing a fatal accident. The result of his actions: three women—bright, loved and full of promise—lost their lives; the fourth was left with serious injuries. They were: Kelsie Davies, just 17 years old, a young woman described as having a pure heart, a student at the Riverside Christian College; Michale Chandler, 29 years old, a pastor at Reach Church in Maryborough; Kaylah Behrens, just 23, also from Reach Church—Kaylah survived but with injuries and trauma that remain long after the physical wounds—and in the other vehicle, Sheree Robertson, aged 52, a nurse driving home after a shift caring for others, as she always did. All four women were local, loved and invaluable to our community. This tragedy did not just affect the victims' families; it tore through our entire community. They were daughters, sisters, friends and leaders, each contributing in her own meaningful way to Maryborough.

A memorial now stands at the entrance to our town. It is more than a stone and flowers; it is a shrine of memory, a symbol of our loss and a reflection of the deep sorrow we will continue to carry as a community. Despite the time that has passed, we have not forgotten, nor have we forgiven, the injustice because today the 13-year-old responsible for this tragedy will serve just 60 per cent of his sentence. In just 18 months he will walk free, still not even old enough to legally hold a driver's licence. To the families left behind and to our grieving community this feels like a slap in the face. The sentence he has been given does not meet community expectations.

We would like to thank our Attorney-General, the Hon. Deb Frecklington, for her support. That is why Adult Crime, Adult Time matters. When a young person causes the loss of three lives and the destruction of so many others they should face the full weight of the law. Accountability cannot be optional. Justice must mean something.