




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Youth Crime

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.06 pm): What a week we have had—week one of parliament and a fresh new year, but it is clear after this week's display that Queensland is not getting the fresh new start they have been promised under the Crisafulli LNP government. One would think that the LNP, newly elected after more than a decade spent in opposition, would come in here with a little bit more than salacious gossip and personal attacks. It has been 117 days and still no agenda but broken promises and policies that have failed to deliver.

The residents of Paddington in my electorate have asked me to come in here today to inform the Premier that his signature policy Adult Crime, Adult Time is failing. This time last year in Paddington we had just 12 offences. This month already we have had 38. Crime has trebled in Paddington in the time that they have introduced this bill. Locals are furious. They are scared. They did not vote for this bill, but now they are shackled to a policy agenda that is making things worse. I am working with a number of local residents to form our own Neighbourhood Watch group to identify local solutions that might help neighbours to regain their safety.

Before the election the Premier announced that there would be fewer victims. He staked his job on it—in 100 days crime would go down. What kills me is that they knew all along that this bill was never going to work, but it did not stop them from going out into communities right across Queensland—communities that were hurting, communities that loved their children but were scared of them and wanted something to be done. The now Minister for Victim Support, the member for Currumbin, and the now Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the member for Ninderry, went into these communities who were so desperate for an answer and told them that their children were the worst of the worst, that they were young terrorists and a generation of untouchables. They convinced communities that the only solution was to lock them up for longer. They convinced communities to invest even more in a carceral system with over a 90 per cent failure rate. We are a small business family. I can tell you right now, Mr Deputy Speaker, that, if we had a supplier who failed over 90 per cent of the time, we would stop investing in that supplier.

My residents deserve that same level of stewardship from this government. Adult Crime, Adult Time was nothing more than a slick slogan. It was never intended to drive down crime: it was designed to win an election. Continuing to pursue ideology over evidence is absurd. It is going to continue to drive crime up. Queenslanders deserve better than this.