



Speech By  
**Kerri-Anne Dooley**

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2025

**YOUTH JUSTICE (MONITORING DEVICES) AMENDMENT BILL**



**Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (4.57 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering a safer Queensland and a safer Redcliffe—safety where you live. Tragically, on 13 March 2020, 15-year-old Angus Beaumont was murdered in a car park in Redcliffe. He was killed by a knife injury inflicted by two youths who were out on bail. There were multiple charges between them. The utter devastation of his death for his mother, Michelle Liddle, his dad, Ben Beaumont, his brother and their extended family has been excruciating. Unspeakable grief—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Member, one moment, please. We are concerned that that matter may still be before the courts on appeal so may be sub judice. You and I do not know exactly where it is at the moment. According to the standing orders, I warn you not to talk about sub judice matters.

**Ms DOOLEY:** This is grief that our own member for Capalaba has experienced. This is grief that Emma Lovell's family—Emma, who was also murdered by youth out on bail—has experienced. Having journeyed with the Beaumonts in their quest to find justice for Angus by coordinating meetings with our then shadow police minister and our now Premier and helping them fight for stronger laws, I have seen the Beaumont's advocacy, along with that of too many other victims of crime throughout Queensland, help shape the Making Queensland Safer Laws, which this bill sits alongside.

The Crisafulli government is extending the current trial of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for certain youth offenders by 12 months, to 30 April 2026. This will allow the necessary time for the completion of meaningful and comprehensive evaluation. I mention these families as I cannot help but wonder whether if these youths had monitoring devices Angus Beaumont, Emma Lovell, Matt Field and Kate Leadbetter and their unborn baby might still be with us.

Currently, for a youth offender to be granted bail with an electronic monitoring condition they must be at least 15 years old; be charged with a prescribed indictable offence; have been previously either found guilty of at least one indictable offence or charged with an unrelated prescribed indictable offence in the preceding 12 months; and consent to wearing the electronic monitoring device. These changes also expand the list of prescribed indictable offences to include specific offences involving violence or threats of violence. The LNP believes the expansion of the trial period will help provide the required evidence to see a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation happen.

The Crisafulli government will conduct a thorough review because we have seen the potential of electronic monitoring to reduce offending. It will provide offenders with an opportunity to re-engage with education or employment and improve community safety when it is applied correctly. There is anecdotal evidence already. In July 2022, a 16-year-old in Logan was fitted with an electronic monitoring device after several periods in detention. The court granted bail with conditions, including residential arrangements and locality restrictions, which the youth successfully adhered to. They have not

reoffended. In November 2024, a 16-year-old youth in South-East Queensland successfully completed two months of bail conditions with an EMD. The sentencing magistrate noted the young person's high level of compliance and that they did not go on to reoffend.

Half of the young people who were subject to EMDs did not reoffend. This is a positive outcome. We need another 12 months to gather more evidence so this comprehensive review can inform government decisions around electronic monitoring for youth offenders. We make absolutely no apology for doing what needs to be done to improve community safety and to reduce the number of victims of crime in this state. Natalie Merlehan, on behalf of Voice for Victims, said—

As both a member of Voice for Victims, a victim survivor of youth crime ... I believe this measure could have been a positive impact on the incident in which I was involved.

I strongly feel, had the monitoring of serious repeat youth offenders through the use of electronic monitoring been in place at the time, it could have provided police and first responders with crucial real-time information about the offender—who was on bail and a known repeat offender. This could have enabled police and possibly other first responders, to intervene earlier, preventing greater harm and reducing the risk to innocent members of the public.

Voice for Victims strongly supports the government's proposal to extend the electronic monitoring trial period by an additional 12 months. They believe that this extension period will provide the necessary time to conduct a comprehensive review and provide the evidence required to inform future government decisions on its effectiveness. The safety of our communities is of paramount importance. Voice for Victims, as an advocacy group, supports measures that strike a balance between rehabilitation and protection for the public. They go on to say—

Electronic monitoring provides an opportunity to closely monitor high-risk youth offenders while still allowing them to engage with rehabilitation programs. This level of oversight may prevent reoffending during the period of release on bail and provide an effective deterrent for those who may otherwise be at risk of reoffending.

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The extension of the trial period will allow time to explore these rehabilitative aspects further and refine the program to ensure it serves both protective and rehabilitative functions.

At the public hearing reviewing this bill, the Queensland Family and Child Commission, the QFCC, commented on the need for not only a quantitative but a qualitative data evaluation. The QFCC further commented that 'strapping on a device is not as important as strapping on support'. That is exactly what we are doing with our comprehensive Making Queensland Safer Laws including the \$485 million in funds for wraparound services, early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs; \$100 million for Gold Standard Early Intervention; \$50 million for Regional Reset; \$40 million for crime prevention schools; \$40 million for youth justice schools; \$80 million for Circuit Breaker Sentencing; \$175 million for Staying on Track; and \$40 million for our victims advocacy service.

In speaking to this bill I want to put on the record the innovative program delivered by Redcliffe Area Youth Space with their Edu Space program, which is educating teenagers who are known to Youth Justice or on bail orders and providing them with an alternative education offering that they can flourish in. Edu Space at Redcliffe Area Youth Space is an innovation in schooling offering vulnerable, marginalised and at-risk young people the opportunity to discover their academic capability, to find their voice and to develop their identity within a safe, inclusive, empowering and transformative environment. I thank Amy Mayes, Allen Ellis and the whole team at Redcliffe Area Youth Space for their commitment to providing education and support for our at-risk and vulnerable teens.

The LNP believes in putting the rights of victims before perpetrators. We believe in consequences for action. We believe in putting an end to a decade of Labor's chaos and crisis and youth crime crisis. The LNP believes in Gold Standard Early Intervention. This bill, alongside our Making Queensland Safer Laws, will help achieve this—a safer Redcliffe and a safer Queensland for all. I commend the bill to the House.