




Speech By
Kerri-Anne Dooley

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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**MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER (ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME) AMENDMENT
BILL**

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (9.22 pm): I rise tonight with a deep sense of duty to speak on behalf of my community of Redcliffe in support of the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. Redcliffe is a proud, tight-knit peninsula community that, like so many others across Queensland, has had its sense of safety and security shaken. As a born and bred Redcliffe local girl, I will fight for safety where we live. As chair of Redcliffe Crime Stoppers for nearly a decade, I saw the data and statistics escalate over the past decade under the former Labor government.

When I listen to residents at shopping centres, at community events, at mobile offices or on their doorsteps, I hear a common theme—that people say they do not feel safe in their own homes or in our community. Parents are anxious about their teenagers walking to the bus, elderly residents double lock their doors early in the evening, and small business owners tell me their shops have been broken into multiple times in the past year—this is not the Redcliffe or Queensland we know and love. Over the past decade under the previous Labor government, crime was allowed to spiral out of control. In fact, it was not just allowed; it was enabled by weak youth justice laws and a Labor government too out of touch to act.

Let's chat about the facts. Under the former Labor government, in the last financial year there were 46,130 finalised offences committed by young people. That was a 12 per cent increase in the last year, a 51 per cent increase in the last five years and a 98 per cent increase over the last decade. There were 289,657 victims of crime in Queensland under Labor in 2022-23. The data also reveals that youth offenders were also offending in an even more violent way. Since 2019 there has been an 8.3 per cent increase in the violence of youth offenders, and the number of serious repeat offenders on an average day has grown by 58 per cent from 2019 to 2024. Under Labor, youth offenders were also offending at higher rates. The average number of proven offences per young person was 14.1 compared with 7.8 in 2019. Illegal use of a motor vehicle also skyrocketed every year, increasing by 3,500 offences over five years. In Redcliffe the effects of this were felt deeply. Redcliffe ranks amongst the most crime affected suburbs in the entire city of Moreton Bay. Our local police do incredible work, but they have been left hamstrung by laws that put the rights of offenders ahead of the rights of victims.

One of the darkest days in Redcliffe's recent history came in 2020 when 15-year-old Angus Beaumont was senselessly stabbed and killed by another teenager out on bail with repeat offences. Angus was simply walking home with a mate—a young life full of promise taken far too soon. His murder sent shock waves through our community and Queensland. It left a family devastated, friends traumatised and a community demanding answers. It also laid bare the failures of a justice system that allowed violent young offenders to roam free, emboldened by the knowledge that consequences were minimal. We owe it to Angus and to every victim of youth crime to strengthen these laws with this second tranche to ensure that perpetrators of crime are brought to justice.

The former Labor government weakened the youth justice laws in 2016, and they then flip-flopped from one plan to another. We had a five-point plan in 2016, a four-point plan in 2019, another five-point plan in 2020 and a 10-point plan in 2022. That was 24 points in seven years but not a single one made our streets safer. In fact, it took the election last year for Labor to finally admit that crime was, in their words, unacceptably high. The people of Queensland spoke loud and clear and voted for our mandate of Adult Crime, Adult Time.

That is why the Crisafulli government introduced the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill. We are delivering. We are prioritising victims' rights. We are making transparent justice. We are delivering stronger sentencing. We are delivering youth justice reforms and early intervention programs—the Staying on Track program, Regional Reset programs, Circuit Breaker Sentencing and Gold Standard Early Intervention.

This bill delivers on our promise and our commitment that we took to Queenslanders to restore law and order and to stop youth crime gripping our state. This also supports our police to say, 'We have your back.' The Queensland Police Union supports this bill and its amendments.

In closing, these are protections for grandparents afraid to walk to the shops, they are justice for young families like Angus whose home has been broken into, and they are a message to every young offender that there are consequences.

To the people of Redcliffe I say this: I hear you, I stand with you and I will fight with you every day to make our community safer. The Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill is not just a promise kept, it is a turning point. Let's restore safety. Let's restore justice. Let's restore Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.