




Speech By
Hon. Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

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

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.26 pm): The work of the Expert Legal Panel is not done. I know that those opposite would like it to be finalised and done and dusted, but the work of the Expert Legal Panel is ongoing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The member for Logan is warned under the standing orders.

Mrs GERBER: They are continuing to provide me with advice in relation to offences that should be included in Adult Crime, Adult Time. We promised Queenslanders at the last election that five key offences would be made Adult Crime, Adult Time before Christmas. We delivered on that promise. We also promised Queenslanders that an expert legal panel would be set up to provide advice to the Crisafulli government in relation to what further offending needs to be included in Adult Crime, Adult Time. We delivered on that promise. The expert panel was set up and they are providing us with the advice. Their advice is written. It is oral. It is ongoing and it is not complete. Those opposite would like their work to be complete. Those opposite would like the work of the Expert Legal Panel wound up right now, but I will tell you what: the Crisafulli government will not stop until we can unwind the harm that those opposite caused by weakening our Youth Justice Act.

We are not asking the Expert Legal Panel to be done. They are trying to conflate advice with a report as well. Their advice is ongoing. It is continuing to happen. As I said, I referred to the Expert Legal Panel all of the offences in schedule 1 of the Penalties and Sentences Act. I referred to the Expert Legal Panel every offence that carries a maximum term of imprisonment of over 14 years. I referred to the Expert Legal Panel all the attempted offences, as well as sexual violence and other sexual related offending, and the Expert Legal Panel was continuing to assess that and is continuing to provide me advice in relation to all those offences.

What the expert panel has done is they have come back to me and recommended that 20 offences be considered for a further tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time. They have recommended that, we have taken that advice on board and we are acting on it. Like I said, in every other press conference that I have done, I am really happy to talk this chamber through the process. I am really happy to talk this chamber through the process of the Expert Legal Panel, what they considered to form their advice and how they came to their decision.

The Expert Legal Panel conducted 10 stakeholder sessions right across the country. They engaged with legal experts, they engaged with professionals and they engaged with victims. They have then come back and they have used harm indexes, and they have also assessed the serious nature of the offending. They have looked at the harm that it causes—both physical and psychological—and then they have provided me with some advice. That advice is ongoing. That advice continues to be provided to me because their work is not done. The Expert Legal Panel have been hard at work. They have

engaged in stakeholder consultations right across Queensland. They have conducted consultation sessions with sector service providers, court liaison legal professionals, youth detention managers, youth support service providers and victim support groups. They have also reviewed existing youth crime data and statistics. They have analysed legislation—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Bulimba is warned under the standing orders.

Mrs GERBER:—case law and policy right across Queensland. As I said, they have referenced harm indexes such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the National Offence Index. They were guided by the concept of physical, emotional and psychological harm and the impacts of that harm on victims and the broader community. The panel's analysis included the core principles of keeping the community safe and building community confidence in the justice system.

Let us look at why this issue is being raised by those opposite. Those opposite would like the expert panel's work to be done. Why? Because fundamentally they do not agree with Adult Crime, Adult Time. They are looking for every excuse in the book to not support these tough new laws. Why? Because they weakened the laws in the first place. Those opposite made detention a last resort. They removed breach of bail as an offence. They closed the Childrens Court to victims and their families.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance in relation to the expert panel report.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): There will be points of order throughout this debate. At the moment the member is being relevant, but bear in mind that everyone will be treated in the same way.

Mrs GERBER: Those opposite are trying to distract from their own record with this motion. Those opposite are trying to wind up the work of the Expert Legal Panel by saying it is 'done and dusted'—but it is not. Their work is ongoing because we promised Queenslanders that we would strengthen our youth justice laws, we promised them we would restore safety where they live and we promised them that we would not stop strengthening our laws until Queenslanders felt safe in their homes, in their businesses and in their communities again.

The Expert Legal Panel has much more work to do. They are still looking at all of the offences we referred to them, but those opposite would like it wound up. They would like it to be done and dusted. They would like the expert panel to be wound up. Why? Because they are hiding from their own record. In the 10 years those opposite were in government we saw the youth crime crisis spiral out of control—that is the real reason. The real reason is that they do not support Adult Crime, Adult Time. They are looking for any excuse in the book to not support Adult Crime, Adult Time. They are clinging to this because they do not want to support it. At the caucus meeting in relation to the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation they tore themselves apart and almost had a leadership spill. The member for Bulimba did not support the first round of Adult Crime, Adult Time in the caucus room. The member for Cooper walked out on the caucus. The member for Cooper threatened to leave the party over Adult Crime, Adult Time and go to the backbench. The member for Murrumba was also threatened with a leadership challenge over the first round of Adult Crime, Adult Time. Of course, the member for Woodridge was another one who did not support the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time.

We know the chaos that is unfolding right now in the Labor Party when it comes to the second tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time. That is the real reason this motion has been moved. That is the real reason they are trying to stop the work of the Expert Legal Panel. They are trying to wind them up but their work is not done. They have so much more work to do, because we have had 10 years of those opposite weakening our youth justice laws—10 years of those opposite creating a generation of repeat young offenders who knew their rights trumped the rights of victims.

The Crisafulli government will not stop until we get the laws that our communities demand. Adult Crime, Adult Time is part of it and the work that the Expert Legal Panel is doing is critical to that. The work that the Expert Legal Panel is doing in relation to providing advice on the further offending that needs to form part of Adult Crime, Adult Time is ongoing. It is still happening. Those opposite do not like it. Those opposite would like it to stop; they would like it to be wound up. We know that in their hearts they do not support Adult Crime, Adult Time. They are looking for any excuse to try to wind this up because they do not support it.

We saw what happened with our first round of Making Queensland Safer Laws—they tore themselves apart. Almost eight members of their caucus voted against Adult Crime, Adult Time. They had members threatening to leave the party. This work is critical and the work of the Expert Legal Panel is ongoing. Those opposite are pulling stunts to try to stop the passage of this Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation. They are trying to stop it from becoming law this week. They are trying to stop the second tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time coming into effect this week.

This motion is about delaying this Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation coming into effect. That is what this motion is about. It would stop attempted rape from being part of Adult Crime, Adult Time. It would delay it coming into effect. It would delay attempted murder from coming into effect. It would mean that a pregnant person whose unborn child is killed by a youth criminal does not have Adult Crime, Adult Time laws to protect them. That is what this motion moved by those opposite would mean. It is absolutely disgraceful and it shows exactly what they really think of Adult Crime, Adult Time. It tells you everything you need to know about what is happening in their caucus right now when it comes to their support of Adult Crime, Adult Time. Why? Because they have a guilty conscience. They know they created this youth crime crisis and they know that these laws are what Queenslanders voted for. We are delivering on a promise that they want to see fail. Adult Crime, Adult Time will be law by the end of this week.