




Speech By
Hon. Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Jack's Law; Youth Crime

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.10 am): As the Premier just said, last night the Crisafulli government made Jack's Law permanent. Last night we delivered on yet another promise to Queenslanders. This is a law that takes knives off Queensland streets. This is a law that saves lives. This is a law that makes Queensland safer and reduces the number of victims of crime in this state. Alongside the Beasleys, we have fought tirelessly for change and to strengthen our knife crime laws after the death of their son Jack nearly six years ago. I too acknowledge the member for Bonney and his contribution, walking alongside the Beasleys in their fight for change.

This government will always stand with victims of crime. That is why we have been advocating for these stronger laws so another family does not have to go through what the Beasleys went through and so there are fewer victims of crime in this state. That is not all. It has been six months since we passed the first tranche of our Making Queensland Safer Laws. These laws removed detention as a last resort; they made Adult Crime, Adult Time law; they ensured the full criminal history of youth offenders can be available and considered; and they made the rights of victims a primary consideration during sentencing—just like we said we would do.

Under this government, victims will always come first. That is why we are continuing to strengthen our laws. Last month this House passed the second tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. We promised there would be consequences for actions. For 10 years youth offenders were given the green light under Labor to keep terrorising our homes, our streets and our businesses. We are a government that delivers on our promises, but there is a lot more to be done. We are fixing a decade of Labor's weak crime laws which put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims. It will take time to reverse Labor's decade of despair, but we will not stop until there are fewer victims of crime.

We are starting to see small decreases in the number of stolen cars, break-ins and robberies. The latest police data shows that robberies are down more than 15 per cent, stolen cars are down five per cent and unlawful entry is down nine per cent across Queensland. It is a start, but there is a long way to go, especially in communities in the North and Far North, which we know were the epicentre of Labor's youth crime crisis and continued to suffer under that youth crime crisis—a crisis that saw them ravaged for almost 10 years. We will work every single day to make those communities and the whole of Queensland feel safe again. We will continue to deliver strong laws alongside effective early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs. We will continue to build a state where there are fewer victims of crime and where justice is served.