




Speech By  
**Hon. Laura Gerber**

**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

### **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.32 pm): I want to acknowledge the member for Nudgee. That was a fantastic contribution, member for Nudgee.

This budget delivers the foundations for a fresh start for Queensland—restoring safety where you live, putting victims first and backing the frontline officers that Labor left behind. That is in stark contrast to how those opposite treated victims. In fact, in the whole hour that the Leader of the Opposition had to address the budget, he failed to mention victims even once. He failed to talk about the families who have lost loved ones, and he failed to mention the shop owners who are forced to close their doors after repeated break-ins or the Queenslanders who no longer feel safe in their homes. Instead, he launched a personal attack on the Premier and failed to even outline how he would do things differently when it comes to victims of crime. That tells you everything you need to know about Labor's priorities.

This budget draws a line in the sand between a Labor government who turned their back on community safety and the Crisafulli government who is determined to restore it; between a decade of Labor's soft-on-crime approach and the Crisafulli government's tough new laws and record investment in rehabilitation, crime prevention and early intervention to stop crime before it happens; and between a Labor system that put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims and the Crisafulli government who will always put victims first.

The Crisafulli government is delivering the largest Youth Justice and Victim Support budget in Queensland history—\$770.2 million—and behind every dollar is a young person who needs support to break the cycle of crime, a family grieving a loss that never should have happened, and a frontline worker showing up day after day facing too much pressure with too little support.

This budget delivers \$215 million for early intervention to turn young lives around before it is too late; \$345 million in rehabilitation programs to break the cycle of crime and reduce reoffending; and \$458.5 million to finally put victims at the front and centre of our justice system. We are rolling out \$115 million over five years for Gold Standard Early Intervention including our Kickstarter program; \$50 million across five years to roll out crime prevention schools to re-engage disengaged youth through education, training and tailored support; and \$50 million over five years for Regional Reset programs, to provide a one- to three-week reset for young people demonstrating high-risk behaviours.

For the Leader of the Opposition in his budget reply to say there is not a single new initiative that will make a difference in the budget—these are all new initiatives. It is all new money and every single one of them is targeted at arresting Labor's youth crime crisis. Meanwhile, Labor was set to axe their own youth co-responder program and Taskforce Guardian. There was no funding for Taskforce Guardian or youth co-responder into the forwards. That is 91 Queenslanders who were set to lose their jobs at 30 June. The Crisafulli government stepped in. We have saved them and we have funded those programs.

The budget delivers \$75 million for our youth co-responder model, because we are serious about tackling Labor's youth crime crisis and these frontline workers matter. There is \$24.4 million ongoing for bail programs to better support compliance by youth offenders; and \$38.8 million to fund Intensive Case Management program—another program that Labor failed to fund, another program that would have fallen off the cliff. That is 47 jobs saved by the Crisafulli government. There is \$225 million for our Staying on Track program to ensure all youth leaving detention receive 12 months of support, not the completely inadequate 72-hour plans that the Labor government put in place that meant kids were given 72 hours of support. They were dropped back into the community and then expected not to reoffend. Is it any wonder the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre has a reoffending rate of 96 per cent?

**Mrs Nightingale:** No wonder.

**Mrs GERBER:** No wonder. I take the interjection; actually I do not take the interjection.

**Mrs Nightingale:** Too late.

**Mrs GERBER:** We are delivering \$40 million for two youth justice schools where offenders on youth justice orders will get more than 12 hours of supervision five days a week to keep them off the street and out of crime; and \$80 million for Circuit Breaker Sentencing to provide a sentenced alternative to detention and intensive rehabilitation to break the cycle of crime for repeat youth offenders. Unlike Labor and the opposition leader, who did not even mention victims once in his budget reply—he did not say the word 'victim' and did not say the phrase 'youth crime', not once—the Crisafulli government is taking real action to arrest Labor's youth crime crisis.

This budget delivers \$50 million to create Queensland's first Victim Advocate Service, a dedicated nation-leading body to ensure victims of crime are supported end-to-end throughout the criminal justice process; \$393 million to enhance support for victims through Victim Assist Queensland; and \$12.9 million to expand the Victims of Crime Community Response. Guess what? Labor did not fund that program either. The Victims of Crime Community Response program would have fallen off a cliff under Labor. That is another 13 jobs the Crisafulli government has saved. Labor completely failed victims of crime and their esteemed leader failed to even mention victims in his speech. We are putting victims first.

I now turn to the corrections system where Labor's neglect is palatable. They completely ignored the modelling, failed to build the infrastructure and handed over a system dangerously overcrowded. Just look at the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. In 2014, it was the former LNP government who funded the business case. Those opposite took five years to act on this much needed infrastructure. Now, a decade on and three cost blowouts later, Labor still could not deliver the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. This budget fixes that.

**Mr McDonald:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs GERBER:** It delivers the long overdue Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre, which under the Crisafulli government will open this year. I can hear the member for Lockyer over there.

**Mr McDonald:** People over politics.

**Mrs GERBER:** Thank you, member for Lockyer; I take that interjection. We are not stopping there. We are investing \$2.39 billion to build prison infrastructure in North Queensland and in the south-east because, unlike Labor, who spruiked about building but never actually built anything, we are getting on with the job of keeping Queenslanders safe. In Townsville, Labor spent \$20 million on site investigations, with no plan and no money to build what was urgently needed. This budget builds the infrastructure Townsville needs to keep Queenslanders safe. There is \$2.39 billion to build and improve prison infrastructure.

This budget also delivers \$31.8 million to expand the secure accommodation precinct for dangerous sex offenders, safeguarding the community and improving Queensland Corrective Services' ability to manage these predators and dangerous offenders. As for the Parole Board, under Labor delays and dysfunction left victims forgotten. Under Labor, 90 hardworking staff who support the board's operation would have dropped off a cliff—their jobs were at risk—crippling the board's ability to do its core job: to keep Queenslanders safe. We are giving the Parole Board a \$30.5 million lifeline to support its operations. This funding will work hand in hand with our independent review of the Parole Board to ensure victims are put first.

When it comes to domestic and family violence, we are delivering \$25 million for the electronic monitoring of high-risk domestic and family violence offenders to give authorities greater oversight, improve compliance with court orders and provide another layer of protection for those at risk. This is about creating a culture of accountability where breaches are not tolerated so that victims no longer feel unsafe. We are backing rehabilitation to prevent reoffending and restore safety where people live. This budget supports QCS to provide a range of evidence-based programs that work to rehabilitate

offenders and continue the implementation of the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce to break the cycle of offending. Through our reforms we are delivering more infrastructure. We are delivering a system that holds offenders to account, supports our frontline officers and prioritises the safety of victims and the community.

In Currumbin alone, this budget delivers. This budget delivers \$800,000 for the Currumbin Eagles, \$450,000 for the mighty Tugun Seahawks, \$220,000 for the Gold Coast United Football Club, \$250,000 for Tugun Surf Life Saving Club and \$2 million towards Currumbin Wildlife Hospital's new research and education campus. This budget also delivers \$724,000 for upgrades in our local schools and \$500,000 to develop a business case for the state-of-the-art STEM centre of excellence at Elanora State High School. This budget also delivers \$225,000 for Coolangatta TAFE. Those opposite claim we are cutting TAFE. What a load of rubbish. Coolangatta TAFE gets \$225,000.

That is not all. We are delivering a solution that Labor failed to deliver. We are acquiring the land to build the long fought for car park that Tallebudgera State School has desperately needed. Labor said it could not be done. They refused to build it for the school. This budget delivers the car park for Tallebudgera State School.

All of this is being delivered while we are cleaning up the chaos that Labor left behind. What we inherited was not just a crisis; it was a complete system failure. We are getting on with the job of building infrastructure for Queenslanders and of delivering a budget that supports Queenslanders now and into the future.