




Speech By
Hon. Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Community Safety

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.48 am): We promised to make Queenslanders safer. We promised this in opposition and we promise this in government. This week we handed down a budget that delivers on that promise to put victims front and centre. Our budget invests more than ever before in youth crime-fighting programs and delivers the foundations for a fresh start for Queensland. Our budget means more early intervention to turn young lives around before they fall into a cycle of crime, more rehabilitation programs to break the cycle of crime and more critical support for victims of crime.

This budget puts Queenslanders first. Mr Speaker, you do not have to take my word for it. Stakeholders right across the state welcome the investment we are making. Damion Douglass from Rosedale South Neighbourhood Crime Watchers addressed his community and said—

Many of you have spoken up about break-ins, car thefts, hooning and concerns around community safety. This budget signals that help is on the way through more boots on the ground, better technology and stronger victim support systems.

Well, Damion, you are right: help is on the way. This is what Queenslanders deserve, because what they got from those opposite was not one, not two but four crises: a youth crime crisis, a housing crisis, a cost-of-living crisis and a health crisis. Disappointingly, yesterday we heard the Leader of the Opposition deliver an hour-long speech that should have outlined his alternative plan to fix the youth crime crisis, but not once—not once—did he even acknowledge victims of crime. What Queenslanders deserve from the Leader of the Opposition is an apology for forgetting victims and for the four crises they are suffering because of his failed leadership.

We will always put Queenslanders first, and that is what this budget delivers. We are investing in a suite of early intervention measures. From Gold Standard Early Intervention, to crime prevention schools, to our Regional Reset programs, we are putting more measures in place now to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis to give the next generation of youth the support and education they need to have a brighter future. We are investing in effective rehabilitation programs, including Staying on Track, Circuit Breaker Sentencing and our youth justice schools. We are giving youth offenders the best chance to turn their lives around. That is not all. We are investing in our correctional system. We have \$2.39 billion to build prison infrastructure in this state as well as enhanced security around sex offenders, improved efficiencies for the Parole Board and taking stronger action to protect those at risk of domestic violence.

Labor failed Queenslanders, and this budget—the Crisafulli government's first budget—is a major step in restoring safety where you live and reducing the number of victims of crime in this state. This is just the beginning of the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for.