




Speech By
Hon. Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; JUSTICE,
INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.07 pm): The Crisafulli government's first budget has laid the foundation for the fresh start we promised, restoring safety where you live, putting victims first and backing the frontline officers Labor left behind. In my portfolio, we have delivered the largest youth justice and victim support budget in Queensland's history—\$770.9 million dedicated to putting victims first, restoring consequences for action and breaking the cycle of crime in this state.

Labor completely neglected victims of crime while they were in government and they continued this poor form during estimates. Both the member for Bulimba and the member for Springwood, who was the real member for the Greens during estimates, tried to silence me when I was explaining how the Crisafulli government is supporting victims of Labor's DNA failures. While I was trying to explain how the Crisafulli government is rolling out support, those Labor members claimed it was not relevant to the victim support portfolio. Support for victims of Labor's DNA debacle is outside the victim support portfolio! That tells us everything we need to know about how this Labor government treats victims of crime.

Their statement of reservation also sought to rewrite history when it comes to separations in our detention centres with categorically false statements. Since January 2025, under the Crisafulli government, staff shortage separations have fallen 32 per cent compared to the same period under Labor. At Cleveland alone they are down 36 per cent. Mr Deputy Speaker, 76 per cent of separations lasted less than two hours and only eight per cent exceeded 12 hours under the Crisafulli government. That is in complete contrast to the mistruths those opposite are trying to peddle when it comes to separations.

Under our government, most of the separations are risk-based because we have delivered our Detention with a Purpose Plan. It prioritises staff safety in our detention centres. It prioritises and ensures consequences for actions for bad behaviour so that, when youth offenders in our detention centres assault our detention staff or when they are a risk to safety at our detention centres, our staff in those detention centres are able to impose risk-based separations in order to secure that detention facility and ensure staff safety is prioritised. We will not tolerate abusive behaviour towards staff in our detention centres. That is what our Detention with a Purpose Plan delivers.

We are also strengthening the workforce. Already we have welcomed 305 new recruits across our youth detention centres and—member for Bulimba, wait for this—that is 59 more staff than in 2023-24 under Labor. The member for Bulimba did not like it. She thought she had a 'gotcha' moment with the workforce plan, which is up on the internet and delivered by the Crisafulli government. We are delivering the staff needed to secure our detention centres, but it will take time to redress the decade of decline under Labor. In just 10 months we have delivered 59 more staff than Labor was able to deliver in the last financial year.

Labor also continued to try to peddle their scare campaign, twisting words in contracts to spin their web of falsities. The live-in component of Regional Reset is 24/7 and it is compulsory. Our tender documents simply allow providers flexibility, meaning Regional Reset facilities can be used for other purposes, like school camps, on the days or weeks the live-in component of the Regional Reset program is not scheduled.

Speaking of unbridled, unfounded fear campaigns, let's move to corrective services. Once again they tried to run another fear campaign around the future of our prisons. They simply cannot accept that our Crisafulli government has backed our corrective services officers and that our wonderful corrective services officers are there running our prisons and it is funded into the forwards. They simply cannot accept it, and they want to continue to run a scare campaign.

In yet another cracker, the shadow minister for corrective services kept a straight face when he asked the commissioner about investment to meet capacity demands in our prison system. The gall! I truly do not know how he kept a straight face when under the Labor government our prisons were operating at 150 per cent capacity. They were over capacity, risking triple-ups, and he kept a straight face while asking about capacity in our prisons.

The Crisafulli government has delivered more for Queenslanders in just 10 months than the decade of decline under Labor.