



Speech By  
**Hon. Laura Gerber**


**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Victims of Crime; Victims' Commissioner, Resignation**

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.55 am): The Crisafulli government made Queenslanders a promise: we would deliver a fresh start, restore safety where you live and drive down the number of victims of crime. That is exactly what we are doing. For the first time in our state's history, Queenslanders have a dedicated Minister for Victim Support.

I am determined to ensure victims are no longer treated as an afterthought. Under the Crisafulli government, their rights are front and centre in the justice process. In our very first budget we delivered a record \$458 million for victims of crime. After 10 years of Labor decline, in just 10 months our investment is delivering: a nation-leading Victims Advocate Service; almost doubling support through Victim Assist Queensland; a statewide rollout of the community response program for victims; and our Youth Justice victims' register.

Right across Queensland we are listening directly to victims, we are listening to their families and we are listening to victim advocates. So far we have been to Cairns, Emerald, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Logan consulting on our nation-leading Victims Advocate Service—and we are not done. Tomorrow we will hear from victims on the Sunshine Coast, and on Thursday victims from Bundaberg, Maryborough and Hervey Bay will have the opportunity to share their stories and experiences in the development of the Victims Advocate Service.

Our budget has also funded the Victims of Crime Community Response program. It is now statewide. Our community response program puts frontline workers on the ground, in communities, following traumatic crime events to directly engage and support communities affected by distressing acts of crime. Our approach is in stark contrast to Labor's 10 years of decline and their failure to even fund the community response into the forwards.

I wish to update the House that the Victims' Commissioner has notified me of her resignation, effective from 23 September. The Crisafulli government has thanked Ms Beck O'Connor for her contribution as Queensland's first Victims' Commissioner. I wish to acknowledge Ms O'Connor's work as the Victims' Commissioner and her efforts to promote the Charter of Victims' Rights and advocacy on the issues affecting victims. In her time as Victims' Commissioner, Ms O'Connor raised awareness of victims' rights and ensured victims of crime have had a priority voice at the table.

The Crisafulli government is committed to putting victims of crime first. The Office of the Victims' Commissioner is critical to identifying systemic issues relating to victims and promoting and advocating for the rights of victims. Acting arrangements will be in place to ensure continuity of the important work that the Office of the Victims' Commissioner performs. The Crisafulli government will continue to put the rights of victims first and continue to deliver for Queenslanders.

