



Speech By
Hon. Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Youth Crime

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.57 am): The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring safety where you live, ensuring Queenslanders feel safe in their homes, at work and in their communities. That is why our government is delivering on our promise to fix Labor's youth crime crisis and reduce the number of victims across this state.

Today I am proud to update the House that the Crisafulli government is delivering on another major election commitment to restore safety where you live with our \$80 million Circuit Breaker Sentencing initiative. Over the past 10 years under Labor, there has been a 98 per cent increase in youth offending. The previous Labor government weakened the youth crime laws in this state and created a generation of hardcore repeat offenders who made our communities less safe. Previous Labor governments failed to invest in effective early intervention or rehabilitation programs, leaving youth without the proper support to turn away from a life of crime.

After 10 years of a spiralling youth crime crisis under previous Labor governments, the Crisafulli government's Circuit Breaker Sentencing is yet another initiative we are delivering to rehabilitate youth offenders and keep communities safe. Through Circuit Breaker Sentencing, the courts will have the option to order youth to do the rehabilitation they need whilst also removing them from the communities they are causing harm to, to stop the churn of reoffending and restore safety where Queenslanders live. Delivered across two remote locations in North and South-East Queensland, the Circuit Breaker Sentencing program will have capacity for up to 60 youth offenders for three to six months, offering a genuine alternative to detention—one built on structure, discipline, education and rehabilitation.

For too long, repeat offenders have cycled through a broken system with no real intervention. The Circuit Breaker Sentencing program ends that churn. It puts community safety first. We are calling on non-government organisations to partner with government to deliver this new initiative and transform rehabilitation and detention in Queensland. Market engagement is now open, with submissions closing on 9 October.

Circuit Breaker Sentencing delivers what Labor never could: real consequences, real rehabilitation and real community safety. After 10 years of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli government is delivering real reforms within 10 months. This is the fresh start Queenslanders voted for. We are a government that will never give up on making Queensland safer, and we will never give up on turning young lives around.