




Speech By
Hon. Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 9 December 2025

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Reportable Conduct Scheme; Member for Hinchinbrook

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.32 pm): When I saw the member for Bulimba rise on a matter of public interest, I thought, 'Good, here we go. We might get an explanation for why the previous Labor government failed to implement a reportable conduct scheme all the way back in 2017 when it was first recommended.' Do you know why I thought we might get that explanation from the member for Bulimba when she rose to her feet just now? She was the minister responsible for child safety when the royal commission recommended the Reportable Conduct Scheme back in 2017. She was directly responsible for implementing the recommendations that the royal commission handed down.

I thought at this point in time, as it is a matter of public interest for Queenslanders, we might get an explanation from the member for Bulimba as to why she, when she was the minister, did not implement a reportable conduct scheme to protect our children and why the most prolific and horrendous paedophile in Queensland's history was able to continue with his horrendous offending against children when he could have been stopped. He could have been picked up and stopped if the member for Bulimba, in her then portfolio of responsibilities, had implemented the Reportable Conduct Scheme, as recommended by the royal commission. What did we hear from the member for Bulimba? We did not hear a why and we did not hear an apology. Why have they not released the cabinet documents that explain the decision-making process around that table? Queenslanders deserve to know.

Does the House know what else the member for Bulimba was responsible for and for which we have not heard any apology? She was responsible for the youth crime crisis. That is right. When our youth justice laws were watered down, the member for Bulimba was the youth justice minister.

I congratulate our new member, Wayne Chiesa, on his victory in the by-election. What did he stand up for during that campaign? He stood up for stronger laws. He stood up for his community, which feels like it has been decimated by the weak laws the former Labor government presided over for the last 10 years—a decade of decline under Labor. Under Labor—and this is particularly relevant to the member's electorate—we saw a dire explosion in youth offending. The number of stolen vehicles increased 91 per cent, robbery increased 100 per cent and armed robbery increased 82.3 per cent.

Under Labor's weak laws and the leadership of the member for Murrumbidgee and the member for Bulimba, we saw hardcore repeat offenders released back onto the streets to continue offending. In fact, the reoffending rate out of our detention centres was 94 per cent. What was the reoffending rate out of the Cleveland detention centre, which is relevant to the member for Hinchinbrook? It was 96 per cent. That is the member for Bulimba's record. Despite stakeholders telling the member for Bulimba that the 72-hour plan they had implemented was not enough and was not based on evidence, despite the Queensland children's commissioner—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Members to my left, it just reached a level of volume in here where I could not hear what the minister was saying. That is unacceptable and disorderly. Please, cease your interjections if they are not being taken.

Mrs GERBER: Does the House know why our new member's community suffered a 96 per cent rate of reoffending out of Cleveland detention centre? The previous Labor government ignored the recommendations of the QFCC and ignored recommendations of stakeholders who said we cannot release kids back into communities from detention without any support. The previous Labor government released youth from detention centres back into communities with little to no support. Their measly 72-hour plan was only given to serious repeat offenders, and the Auditor-General found that not even every serious repeat offender got 72 hours. It was found that the 72-hour plan was not based in evidence.

The Crisafulli government has taken action. To restore safety to where we live, every single youth who goes into detention will be given 12 months of support when they are released back into our communities. We can restore safety to the people of Hinchinbrook, who suffered for too long under a weak Labor government. They now have a fierce local member who will stand up for his community on crime, who will ensure his community gets safety restored to where they live. I congratulate him on his election, and I thank him for the campaign that he ran. I condemn the previous Labor government for their weak laws, for their failure to protect Queenslanders and for their failure to protect children from the worst paedophile in Queensland's history.

(Time expired)