




Speech By
Hon. Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Youth Crime, Bail

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.10 pm): It has been a year since the Crisafulli government made Adult Crime, Adult Time law. In December last year we passed the Making Queensland Safer Laws, which put the rights of victims back at the centre of the justice system; removed detention as a last resort for youth offenders; ensured a youth's full criminal history can be considered at sentence; and delivered consequences for actions for youth offenders. Today I can update the House on the impact of our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws on serious repeat offenders.

In the first nine months of the Making Queensland Safer Laws the number of serious repeat offenders has dropped 16 per cent. Contrast that with those opposite. Under the previous Labor government the number of serious repeat offenders increased 64 per cent. For Queenslanders, this means that under the Crisafulli government there are fewer victims of crime. In fact, in the first nine months of this year victim numbers are down 6.5 per cent. We know that there is a long way to go because we are coming off such a high bar.

We promised Queenslanders that we would continue to strengthen youth crime laws after a decade of the previous Labor government weakening them. Today I can also announce that I will be introducing a bill to deliver on that commitment to strengthen our youth crime laws. Today we are introducing strong new youth bail monitoring laws. Our bill will give courts the power to impose electronic monitoring on any youth offender given bail. Not only that, we are making it permanent and statewide. Any youth aged 10 to 17 who appears before the court and is granted bail can also have an electronic monitoring device fitted. These devices will reduce reoffending and ensure youth on bail are held accountable for their actions. These youth will now think twice before committing crimes because police will be watching.

Let's be clear: if a youth offender poses an unacceptable risk to community safety, they should be remanded in custody. Where courts have made a decision to grant that youth bail, our bill will allow the courts to also order that youth to wear an electronic monitoring device. This is a tool to monitor youth who have been given bail by the courts to protect Queenslanders and deter reoffending. This is another measure that will protect Queenslanders and reduce the number of victims of crime in this state. We always said that we would continue to strengthen youth crime laws, and that is exactly what we are doing after a decade of decline under the previous Labor government.