




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2025

YOUTH JUSTICE (MONITORING DEVICES) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (12.15 pm): The LNP were very keen to talk about crime in opposition but now it appears that they are not so keen to be scrutinised in government. The opposition will not oppose this bill. We will not stand in the way of its passing. This could be law within hours if the government put this to a vote, but I suspect they will not. It is just like the Trusts Bill, which was apparently urgent until it was not urgent because they do not have enough legislation to be debated in this House.

A government member: That is the member who tried to gag debates.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the minister, who just had a go at us for gagging debate. When members on that side made points of order about the shadow minister's speech, she was sat down as a result. The LNP wanted to gag debate because it did not suit them to be scrutinised.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the member for Gaven's contribution, I would submit to you that she is reflecting on rulings of the chair and I would ask you to consider that matter.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Gaven took the interjection from the minister and was referring to that interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member to my left, you may proceed.

Ms SCANLON: This bill changes just one word in law. It amends '4 years' to '5 years'—one numeral. That begs the question: why did the government not include that one amendment in their signature laws last year? The sunset clause was always there in front of them, giving them eight months from the time the August amendments were passed. We are in parliament this week debating a whole bill which changes one numeral—'4' to '5'—referring to the number of years the EMD trial will last for, the date the final sunset clause will come into effect.

Queenslanders deserve more than weasel words, slogans and one-word changes. Clearly, the LNP have no legislative agenda and they think that putting this bill before the House will make up for the fact that, clearly, the minister forgot. She forgot.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my right, the member is not taking interjections.

Ms SCANLON: I will acknowledge one thing: at least we have seen the cabinet submission from this proposed amendment—and that is more than we can say for the Making Queensland Safer Laws, which were supposed to be their signature laws yet the so-called Minister for Integrity is clearly trying to keep something secret. One of the reasons they are probably keeping that secret is that they made these big claims to Queenslanders that they were going to fix crime by Christmas and that did not happen.

Mr Stevens: Rubbish!

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection of the member who just said, 'Rubbish!' The member should tell Queenslanders who have been victims of crime that the LNP think it is rubbish to say that crime has not been fixed.

I take the House back to one of the comments made by the Premier when he was in opposition. He said—

Under my model, you will actually be able to turn things around immediately because you won't have that churn.

The police minister promised 'relief from crime will begin within days'. They have changed their tune now because crime has gone up in a number of areas.

Our shadow police minister made the point the other day that the LNP are just cherrypicking data that suits them and not talking about those offences where we have seen an increase. They include: unlawful possession of concealable firearms, a 38 per cent increase; shop stealing, a 7.61 per cent increase; Weapons Act offences, a 15 per cent increase; and armed robbery, a seven per cent increase. Yesterday, we effectively got an admission that the LNP had bungled the laws that they had rushed through. They rushed them through because they said they were going to fix crime, and yet crime is up.

As I said, we will not be opposing the bill, but I do think it is important to talk about some of the issues raised by some of the submitters. In fact, submitter after submitter said that we must have early intervention and prevention programs in place if we are going to address youth crime. Despite the rhetoric from the LNP, we have not seen a single new dollar actually go towards a youth justice program.

I have seen more money spent on slogan advertising by this new government than has actually gone towards programs that will help divert young people from the criminal justice system. We are nearly in the sixth month of the Crisafulli government and all they have done on early intervention and prevention is put out a tender. That shows us their priority. They are more interested in doing media announcements and pushing out media advertising to suit their political interests than getting money on the ground to support the incredible organisations that turn the lives of young people around.

Ms Grace: Which we have and which we did.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the shadow minister. That was something that our government was really focused on. We heard some of the success stories of some of those programs that were having an impact.

This bill changes just one word in law. This is continuing a trial that was started by Labor. As I said, the opposition will not be standing in the way of these reforms. We could have them heard and passed today—within a matter of hours. The government need not blame us for delaying their laws. If they want them passed urgently, like they told everyone they wanted, then they could do it right now.