



Speech By  
**Michael Healy**

**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

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### **YOUTH JUSTICE (ELECTRONIC MONITORING) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (8.24 pm): I rise to support the bill introduced by the honourable member for Currumbin and Minister for Youth Justice. The Crisafulli government was elected on a platform of keeping Queenslanders safe and ensuring we put victims first. We will do everything we can to drive down crime in this state. I must say that I am completely confused as to the position of the Labor Party right now. We have just heard from a former police officer, and I acknowledge the work that the member for Macalister has done on behalf of the people of Queensland as a police officer. However, it is obvious that there is a great deal of division and divide in the Labor Party right now.

As the member for Lockyer touched on, this reminds me of December 2024 when they could not decide how to vote on the Making Queensland Safer Bill. I had to speak for about an hour and a half to give them enough time to finish their caucus meeting, at which they were deciding how they would vote. My voice is still hoarse from that and I apologise to the House for waffling, but I had to do that because the opposition did not know which way they were going to vote. I had to give them time to have their caucus meeting and make up their minds. Where are we today? What is Labor's position on the bill? If you listened to the member for Macalister—

**Mrs Gerber:** They don't even know.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** They do not even know; I take that interjection from the minister. They are still trying to work it out. It is obvious that half of the Labor opposition think they should be tough on crime and they want to tell the Queensland people that they are tough on crime; however, the other half say, 'No, we don't want to do that because we will upset our Greens mates.' I am wondering how the Labor opposition will come to a conclusion. Will they support our tough laws or will they try to weaken them? Do they support children having opportunity? I thought they wanted to look after children. A young child who has done the wrong thing could have the opportunity to have an electronic monitoring device and go home. Half of the Labor Party go, 'No, lock 'em up' and the other half say, 'No, let 'em out.' Actually, I will say that a third say, 'Lock 'em up'; a third say, 'Let 'em out'; and the other third say, 'Don't arrest them. Despite the fact that they've done something wrong, we don't want to punish them.'

I want to give the House a statistic: 84 per cent of people over the age of 18 stop offending. Do members know why? It is because of consequences for actions. After turning 18, 84 per cent are less likely to reoffend. However, we hear from the member for Macalister that if you offend once you will continue to offend. Under the youth justice minister, I can tell the House that that is not going to happen because the Crisafulli government is resolute: consequences for actions—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): We will have order in the House. Attorney-General, I bring you back to relevance to the bill. You have been slightly relevant but I bring you back to being directly relevant to the bill, otherwise you will be seated.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is great to have you in the chair. We are ensuring that we have the strongest bail laws in the nation. This is a step in that direction. With the greatest respect, I am exceedingly confused about how the Labor opposition are going to come together and work out how they vote on the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill. We on this side of the House, the Crisafulli government, believe that victims deserve to have peace of mind while they wait for justice.

At this point, I acknowledge the member for Hinchinbrook, Wade Chiesa. Welcome to the House, member for Hinchinbrook. He is a member who understands that victims of crime should come first. If kids do the wrong thing they should face the consequences. However, with electronic monitoring across the state, which is what the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill provides for, it offers youth who do the wrong thing a chance. It gives them bail support.

Labor failed to fund permanent police positions in the youth co-responder unit. The member for Macalister talked at great length about the co-responder model for police. I would like to tell the House—and I know the police minister would probably like to announce this—that the Crisafulli government funded the co-responder unit. We made those police positions permanent.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! We will have some quiet in the House, thank you.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Apologies. We made those positions permanent because it is about ensuring that those police officers can wrap their arms around the kids who are on bail and those who will have electronic monitoring devices. Importantly, it is about preventing them from reoffending.

I have more faith and hope in the next generation of Queensland kids than I think some on the opposite side of the House have. I have heard from Labor speakers that kids are going to continue to offend. I actually have more faith in them than that. I think they should be given the opportunity if they are in juvie to go to school, to learn how to be a better citizen or to perhaps work with local citizens. For example, in and around Kingaroy and the South Burnett, CTC, an amazing organisation, is working with youth offenders through the program that the minister has implemented to ensure that when these youths come out of juvie—and we have quite a few of them in the South Burnett—they will have someone who looks after them not just once and for 72 hours, but is a touch point for a period of time to get them back on track.

We do not want to see them reoffending. We want them to get back to school, to be employed and to be wonderful citizens, particularly in and around the South Burnett. They may become tradies. They can become whatever it is they want to become. They may become lawyers. They may be the next Attorney-General. Who knows! The point is that we must ensure that we look after these youth offenders and give them the options that the youth justice minister is giving them.

In the dying days of the Labor government in 2024 they added further trial locations, but then failed to extend the end date of the program. They never made it permanent. That sums up the Labor opposition. They made the announcement and they failed to follow through.

In my last 40 seconds, I have one question for the Labor opposition: what is their position on the bill? Where is Labor going with electronic monitoring and strengthening the bail laws in this state? Where are they going? We know crime is still a problem in Cairns. Where is the member for Cairns going? Is he going to back the LNP's strong on crime approach? Is he going to back—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! No. I will bring you back to being relevant to the bill. This is the second time I have had to ask you to do that, Attorney-General.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Excuse me! I have sat down.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Attorney-General, I call you now.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.