




Speech By
Natalie Marr

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

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MOTION

No Confidence in Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (6.07 pm): I rise tonight to support the amendment moved by the member for Whitsunday. What we have seen today is a desperate act from the opposition leader, who would rather rewrite history than confront his party's record. I watched my community over the last decade be ignored when we were calling out to the Labor government to listen and recognise the torture we had to endure. This was a government that did nothing for over a decade. How dare the opposition come in here and attack our minister, who visited our region more times during and after the election than I ever saw their minister when they were in government. What we heard constantly from the former member for Thuringowa and his government was that we did not have a crime problem. He never had the ear of the minister like we have today.

Townsville has been a priority for this minister and this LNP government. The minister has driven a whole-of-system approach: strengthening laws, prioritising victims, holding offenders accountable, investing in real rehabilitation and lowering victim numbers. The results are there for all to see. Let's look at what has been delivered in just 10 months.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms MARR: Don't tell me about Townsville. I can tell you the pain. We suffered a lot under the Labor government, let me tell you. We were terrified in our houses, terrified in the streets and we had three MPs who not once—not once—stood up for our community. Not once! How dare you come in here and criticise us today. Absolute nonsense!

Let's look at what has been delivered in the last 10 months, shall we: tough new Adult Crime, Adult Time laws; a \$560 million investment in new early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs; \$50 million for Kickstarter programs, with \$10 million rolling out the door for round 1 and another \$5 million with round 2 now closed; \$225 million for Staying on Track; \$50 million for crime prevention schools with one in Townsville, I am proud to say; \$40 million for youth justice schools; \$80 million for circuit breaker sentencing; a statewide Victims of Crime Community Response Unit; statewide consultation on our nation-leading Victims Advocate Service—I am losing my breath, there is so much to say today—and the groundwork to restore stability at the Parole Board.

In just 10 months we have delivered landmark reforms to protect more victims sooner and to hold perpetrators to account. We promised to put victims first, and we have. In the first six months of 2025 we have seen the number of serious repeat youth offenders fall by 17 per cent and the number of victims fall by 5.7 per cent. It is very quiet over there now. Let's look at Labor's record, shall we? There were watered down youth laws. Townsville was the epicentre of crime. We were the first to cry out about the danger of what the Labor government did with no regard for consequences. We all remember the denial of the youth crime crisis, calling it a media beat-up. Please! Speaking of consequences, their

changes to legislation meant there were no consequences. Crime increased and juvenile thugs pretty much owned our streets in Townsville and across Queensland. Under Labor, 91 per cent of kids were back in detention within 12 months—that is a great record for those opposite to sit with—and there were no prisons for a decade.

I stand with victims, who now have a voice; I stand with my community, which now has a voice; and I stand with the LNP Crisafulli government, which puts victims first and demands consequences for actions. That is the record of our minister. I stand with Queenslanders, who, after too many years of Labor's weak laws, can once again have confidence that their government is putting safety first. How? It is under the leadership of our Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. I am proud of all of our ministers, who work together on tough reforms for outcomes and consequences for actions being a priority. All of the members on this side of the House express confidence in the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services continuing to lower crime numbers.