




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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**MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER (ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME) AMENDMENT
BILL**

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (8.45 pm): On 26 October last year, the people of Redlands entrusted me with the responsibility of being their voice in this parliament. With that comes a clear and unwavering duty to restore safety where they live. Today, by rising to speak in support of the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, I am doing exactly what I said I would do. This bill delivers on the mandate I was given to put community first, to hold serious offenders to account, to put the rights of victims ahead of perpetrators and to rebuild confidence in our justice system.

In Redlands, I hear the same message from parents and carers at the school gates, small business owners in our shopping centres and older residents in our retirement communities. People are sick of living in fear. They are tired of locking their doors in broad daylight, listening for noises at night and bracing for yet another break-in or stolen car. This bill is not just policy on paper; it is a direct response to what Queenslanders are actually living through every day. It is about life disrupted, safety taken and trauma that lingers long after the headlines fade.

It is about people such as Beth Musgrave, a Redlands local whose home, once her family's safe space, became the scene of a terrifying break-in by a group of youths, which happened while they were sleeping. Since that night, her family has never felt the same. The doors are locked tighter, they sleep a little lighter and their sense of safety is gone. It is about Chris Sanders who was stabbed outside a local shopping centre in broad daylight. The scars are more than physical. They have shaken his entire family and reshaped how they live, where they go and what they feel. It is about Julie Fox, who spoke of the fear that creeps in long after the crime—a fear that does not just come from losing possessions but also from losing trust in your own neighbourhood. When you can no longer walk out your front door without looking over your shoulder, that is not just a crime; it is a way of life being taken away from you.

These stories were shared bravely at the public hearing held in the Redlands. I thank the parliamentary committee for being there and for giving victims the chance to speak up, to be heard and to know that their voices have helped shape this bill. This legislation is their contribution too. It is their strength, their honesty and their pain that has driven this change and that must never be forgotten.

These are not isolated incidents. They reflect a broader crisis, a youth crime crisis, that spiralled under a decade of the former government's soft-on-crime approach. Since 2015, Labor watered down the Youth Justice Act, abolished breach of bail as an offence and made detention a last resort. What was the result? In 2023 and 2024, there were 46,130 proven offences committed by young people across Queensland, up 12 per cent from the year before and a staggering 98 per cent increase over the past decade. That is not a trend; that is a crisis.

This government was elected to fix it, and fix it we will. The first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time laws were passed before Christmas, making good on our commitment to treat serious offences with the seriousness they deserve. Today, we go further. This bill will expand section 175A of the Youth

Justice Act to include 20 additional offences. We are talking rape, attempted murder, kidnapping, arson, torture, stealing a vehicle, trafficking in dangerous drugs and endangering police officers or damaging emergency service vehicles while driving. These are not petty offences; these are acts that devastate lives, traumatise victims and tear at the fabric of our communities.

Let me be clear: we are not giving up on young people, nor are we giving up on the safety and rights of victims. What this bill will do is simple: if a young offender commits a serious adult crime, they will face serious adult consequences. That is what Redlanders have asked me to fight for. That is what we are delivering. Importantly, the bill does not strip courts of discretion; it simply removes the artificial barriers that have allowed young people to walk free, despite committing serious harm. It allows courts to apply the same sentences available for adults.

The inclusion of offences like ramming police cars or driving directly at officers acknowledges what we have heard from our front line—that this type of behaviour is escalating across Queensland and is putting our officers in real danger. As the member for Redlands, I never want to see that kind of violence reach our own streets, not in Victoria Point, not in Redland Bay, not anywhere in our community. Our local police do an extraordinary job and it is my job to ensure they are protected by strong laws before tragedy strikes. This bill is about giving them the legal backing they need to stay safe while keeping the rest of us safe too. This bill responds directly to that reality. It also ensures that victims, too often treated as afterthoughts, are finally put at the centre of our justice system. One of the minor amendments in this bill will also allow registered victims to nominate someone to receive updates on their behalf, recognising the trauma involved in revisiting these crimes.

Beyond policy, this is about restoring confidence. It is about sending a message to communities, like Redlands, that we will no longer allow repeat offenders to terrorise our suburbs unchecked. This bill was informed by the recommendations of an expert legal panel. They examined harm indexes and consulted legal experts, police, youth justice workers and, critically, victims' groups. They applied a consistent, harm-based framework to determine which offences warranted inclusion. Their advice is sound. Their criteria—severity, violence and community risk—are clear. This government have acted on that advice, just as we said we would.

We have already seen early signs that these laws are starting to make a difference. Across Queensland, reported offences have dropped nearly three per cent in the first four months of this year. Robbery is down 15 per cent, unlawful entry is down over 11 per cent and car theft is down over eight per cent. That is not by accident. It is because the message is finally being heard that there will be consequences. The revolving door is starting to slow.

We know this is not the end of the road. This is just the next step. The expert panel will continue its work and more changes will come because this government will not stop until Queenslanders feel safe again, whether they live in Cairns, in Townsville, in Goondiwindi or in Redlands. Safety is not a privilege; it is a right. Every Queenslanders deserves to walk their streets without fear, to sleep without a baseball bat beside their bed—something we also heard at our public hearing in Redlands—and to raise their children in communities that are safe and secure. I finish by reaffirming my support for this bill not just as a member of parliament but also as a mother, a neighbour and a Redlander who is deeply committed to turning this crisis around.