



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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YOUTH JUSTICE (ELECTRONIC MONITORING) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (12.09 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. This is an important next step in making our community safer and reducing the number of victims. Since being elected, the Crisafulli government has been working hard to restore safety where we live. Steps we have already taken include: the introduction of the Making Queensland Safer Laws, which remove detention as a last resort and put the rights of victims ahead of the rights of criminals; youth offenders now face tough new consequences for 33 offences under Adult Crime, Adult Time; the introduction of Daniel's Law to keep our children safer and Jack's Law to get knives off our streets; the introduction of a permanent rapid response unit, the State Flying Squad; more boots on the ground and police given the resources they need to get the job done; and, critically, the investment in early intervention and rehabilitation, despite what those opposite might have people believe. In fact one of the first early intervention programs we funded as a government was a program in my electorate of Townsville that had its funding cut under Labor. Maybe it was too effective.

This bill is another significant step forward. I commend the committee for coming to Townsville. We heard some harrowing experiences that were shared with us from members of our community. One of them was Darryl Griffiths, who was a victim of crime. He shared with the committee the experience that he and his family went through. He said—

The ankle monitors are a great idea and it needs to be done. It is the old adage: 'If you don't want to do the time, don't do the crime.' If you do not want to wear an ankle monitor—and the word will get out really quick to these kids—then do not do the crime. Do not break into my house. Do not steal my cars.

It has been interesting listening to the contributions from those opposite, and I will reflect on what I heard yesterday from the member for Greenslopes. He said that Labor remain committed to evidence-based programs. We know, and Townsville knows, that the evidence shows that their programs did not work. To do the same thing over and over again and expect a different result is the definition of insanity.

Under our government electronic monitoring is a condition for youth on bail and it will not expire; it will be permanent. Labor failed to give the courts the power to order it on all youths; instead it was restricted. They had to be between 15 and 17 years old, live in one of the few prescribed areas, be heard by a court in only a handful of locations, be charged with certain prescribed indictable offences and have been previously found guilty of an indictable offence or were charged with a prescribed indictable offence in the last 12 months. It had very restrictive limitations.

When I speak with the community, one of the critical issues is the previous Labor government's guideline that meant the court had to get the consent of the offender to wear a monitoring device. That does not work. It is like me with my kids if they are misbehaving. If I said to them, 'Go and clean your room if you want to,' they would not go and clean their room. It is about consequences for action, and we take that seriously on this side of the House. We are taking steps forward. We are reducing the number of victims. We have much more to do so we will continue to work hard to keep our community safer and reduce the number of victims of crime in Townsville.