



Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 4 March 2026

MOTION

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (5.30 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Crisafulli LNP government for omitting thousands of victims of crime, including domestic and family violence victims, from victim numbers.

This is a motion that the LNP did not even want to debate tonight. They had to come in and have a conversation to see whether they could get away with it because they know that the LNP and their leader are under severe pressure, knowing he has been fudging the figures here in Queensland.

Labor wants to see the numbers of victims of crime genuinely come down here in Queensland. Under Labor and under a fantastic Labor police minister we started to turn that corner because of our laws and our investment. In 2024 we saw the number of victims drop before we even adjusted for per capita population growth in Queensland, something which the clever politician the Premier knows all about, and we have heard it before multiple times. In Queensland under Labor the number of robberies dropped almost seven per cent, the number of break-ins dropped by over eight per cent and the number of car thefts dropped by 3.2 per cent. Guess what? Last year alone under this LNP four-word slogan government that number was just 1.3 per cent. In fact, in the last three months of 2025 the LNP oversaw a shocking surge in stolen vehicles that reversed the trend entirely in that short period. It reversed the trend that started under Labor and was then on the improve.

Sadly, the Crisafulli government has worked out that in government slogans do not actually reduce crime. Then the LNP government clearly decided earlier this year to cook the books. In October last year the opposition revealed—and I want to thank our staff for this—that this government removed thousands of victims of crime from their data overnight—gone—and guess who they blamed? They blamed the police. That is right, the LNP who carry on in this place claiming to back police blamed them. It is shameful. They will do whatever it takes to save this Premier and this clever politician's job and yesterday we saw strike 2. The *Courier-Mail* revealed that over 900 child victims were not recorded in the QPS data and we saw the police minister's desperate and farcical performance in question time trying to cover it up.

The house of cards opposite is certainly crumbling and the police minister was trying to hold it all together. I say to the police minister: well done for trying to hold it all together. We hear the government media team certainly went into overdrive backgrounding to help him cover his tracks. It is not good enough. It is not good enough for the people of Queensland. Queenslanders expect transparency and they expect accountability from their government. They are not getting that. That is what they got in 2021 when former commissioner Katarina Carroll changed how domestic violence offences were recorded. She did that because it is how police wanted it. This decision was in the interests of victim-survivors of domestic violence. That change meant that police officers must record all identified substantive criminal offences associated with domestic and family violence investigations here in Queensland within QPRIME. We knew that this change would result in the reported victims of crime

increasing overnight. We knew that and we told the people of Queensland. We were open and transparent. Despite the known challenges that this would create politically, Labor knew it was the right thing to do. We declared it. We told the people of Queensland. In the 2021 QGSO crime report it was clearly stated—

From 1 July 2021, a change in recording practices was implemented by the Queensland Police Service, requiring police officers to record within QPRIME all criminal offences associated with domestic and family violence ... incidents that come to their attention. Consequently, 2021-22 presents as a break in the time series for DFV-related variables that are based on recorded offences data.

Despite this clear publicly declared change, the LNP to this day ignore this inconvenient truth when citing and cherrypicking statistics to suit their political agenda and narrative for the Premier of Queensland. It is not the legislative amendment that has resulted in this data not being recorded. It is because this arrogant police minister thinks he can get away with fudging the figures alongside the Premier of Queensland, which is an absolute shame for our wonderful state.

(Time expired)