



Speech By
Janelle Poole

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Record of Proceedings, 4 March 2026

MOTION

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the police minister to the motion and want to remark on the comments made by the member for Gladstone. He stated in his speech that he genuinely wanted to see victim numbers drop. Well, lucky for him he has an LNP Crisafulli government, because he is seeing it here in Queensland! I rise to speak on these matters that are deeply important to the people that I represent in Mundingburra and right across the community of Townsville. Community safety is at the heart of everything we do, and for too long Queenslanders were told that what they were seeing and what they were experiencing in their communities was not real. They were told it was exaggerated. They were told it was a media beat-up, but the people of Townsville knew the truth. They knew it because they were living it every single day, and the stats—the facts—speak for themselves.

The members opposite like to talk about the stats. Well, I have some stats for them. Under Labor's decade of decline, victim numbers soared. In 2023 alone, there were 289,657 victims of crime in Queensland—the highest in the nation. During that same period, the total number of victims increased by 193 per cent—there is a stat. Across Queensland total crime increased 27 per cent under Labor's watch. There was a 101 per cent increase in unlawful use of a motor vehicle; break and enters, 44 per cent; and assaults, 198 per cent. All the while this was happening to families. They were too scared to go outside. They were installing security cameras, boarding up their windows—

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I want to be sure you can hear me, member for Gladstone. You are warned.

Mrs POOLE:—and, all the while, those opposite dismissed the crisis as nothing more than a media beat-up. In Townsville the impact was severe. We were labelled 'crims-ville', 'thugs-ville'. We were the epicentre of Labor's youth crime crisis. We lived it every day. Under Labor's reign, in Townsville stolen cars increased by a staggering 199 per cent. Some 1,945 vehicles were stolen in 2023 alone—that is nearly 2,000 families that did not have their car when they woke up in the morning. They did not have a car to get to work or take their kids to school. It was not just car theft that increased. Unlawful entries surged across Townsville under Labor's time in government—2023 being the worst year on record. Homes were broken into and families were violated. There was a 150 per cent increase. Children were too scared to sleep in their own bed in case the bad man came back.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs POOLE: Hang your head in shame, too. Weaker laws, fewer police—

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Inala, stop your quarrelling.

Mrs POOLE:—all created under the Labor government's youth crime crisis. I know this personally. I personally saw it. During 28 years of serving with the Queensland Police Service in Townsville, I saw it firsthand.

Instead of consequences, repeat offenders were cycled back into the community again and again. People in Townsville were fed up. In October 2024, Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and that is what they got. We introduced strong reforms like Adult Crime, Adult Time, ensuring serious youth offenders faced real consequences for their actions and our police officers finally had a government that had their back. We gave them the laws, we gave them the resources, we gave them the tools that they needed to do their job to keep our community safe and we pride ourselves on that. The Crisafulli LNP government have the back of our police so that they are able to do their job to keep our community safe.