



Speech By
Hon. Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 3 March 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Youth Justice

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.09 am): The Crisafulli government made a promise to Queenslanders—a promise to restore safety to communities, to see fewer victims of crime and to strengthen youth crime laws to ensure there are consequences for actions. That is exactly what we are doing. I am pleased to update the House that today I will introduce a bill to expand Adult Crime, Adult Time to include an additional 12 serious offences to continue to restore safety where you live.

We delivered the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time laws before Christmas in 2024, just as we promised. Then last year we delivered further Adult Crime, Adult Time laws on the advice of the Expert Legal Panel. Today we are building on those strong foundations by expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time to continue to drive down the number of victims of crime in this state. Unravelling a decade of Labor's weak laws does not happen overnight, which is why we promised Queenslanders we would continue to strengthen our laws. It is also why we promised Queenslanders we would establish an expert legal panel, and I would like to thank them for the advice they have provided to the Crisafulli government. They were appointed for a year and they have done a significant amount of work in that time and laid the foundations for strong laws.

Today, make no mistake: our work is not done. While the bill I will introduce expands Adult Crime, Adult Time, I make this commitment to Queenslanders: we will continue to strengthen our youth crime laws and we will make more changes if they are needed. While those opposite spent a decade weakening our laws, we stand on the side of victims and will strengthen our laws. Under the previous Labor government victim numbers rose 193 per cent. Under the Crisafulli government victim numbers have fallen 7.2 per cent. Serious repeat—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs GERBER: I hear those opposite interjecting.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: When I call order, I expect the House to come to order.

Mrs GERBER: I hear those opposite interjecting. They are still not supporting our strong laws that have seen the number of serious repeat offenders fall 17 per cent and that have seen proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences fall 27 per cent when under those opposite victim numbers rose by 193 per cent. It is still early days. We are coming off an extremely high base thanks to the previous Labor government, but it demonstrates our strong laws are starting to work. They are working alongside our early intervention and rehabilitation programs.

We know that our strong laws need to go hand in hand with early intervention and rehabilitation, and that is why we are delivering programs right across the state to ensure youth can stop offending and turn their lives around. For the first time, every youth offender who leaves detention gets 12 months of rehabilitative support with our Staying on Track program. Under Labor, they barely got 72 hours. The Crisafulli government has a plan to restore safety to communities—a plan we are delivering, a plan Queenslanders backed. However, Queenslanders do not know where the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues stand when it comes to Adult Crime, Adult Time. Will they back Adult Crime, Adult Time, or will they follow through—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs GERBER:—and I hear them—with their secret plan to unwind Adult Crime, Adult Time?