

Question on Notice

No. 735

Asked on 27 May 2021

MR N DAMETTO ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON S FENTIMAN) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the current youth crime crisis in Queensland that continues to impact innocent lives —

Will the Attorney-General confirm whether the State Government intends to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years old, as outlined in a draft of Queensland Labor's proposed State Platform 2021?

ANSWER:

Community safety has always been a priority for the Palaszczuk Government.

When this Government was first elected in 2015, it inherited a broken youth justice system that was based entirely on failed policies. This Government will continue to implement policies based on evidence. The Government recently made amendments to the *Youth Justice Act 1992* that crackdown and target hardcore repeat young offenders.

The amendments included the implementation of a presumption against bail for young offenders who are charged with serious offences while already subject to bail for serious offences, to make it clear that community protection from recidivist high-risk offenders is a relevant consideration for Courts to consider and enable courts to consider the willingness of parents, guardians and others to support a young person to comply with their bail conditions and to advise of any breaches of those conditions.

To support the tough new measures, the Palaszczuk Government is also delivering a \$98.4 million funding package to support the crackdown on youth crime.

On top of that, more than \$60 million will be invested over four years to support programs and services that are showing positive results in steering young people away from offending behaviour.

The new funding will deliver more resources to the frontline, with a trial of GPS monitoring devices and the expansion of Co-Responder Teams.

The Premier and Minister for Trade has stated publicly that there are no plans to raise the age of criminal responsibility in Queensland. Raising the age of criminal responsibility remains on the agenda of the Meeting of Attorneys-General. Queensland will continue to participate in those discussions.

I further refer the Member to public statements made by the Premier that whilst the Labor Party has very robust debates, what is contained in the Labor Party's State Platform is not Government policy.