




Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**

**MEMBER FOR THEODORE**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2024

## **VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE REVIEW BOARD BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.33 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Victims' Commissioner and Sexual Violence Review Board Bill. From the outset I want to thank my fellow committee members for a piece of legislation that does have a lot of relevance to what is transpiring in our communities at the moment. When it comes to victims of crime throughout our state, we have seen steep increases. I can certainly say that in my electorate of Theodore on the northern Gold Coast it is an issue that is continually coming to my attention. Residents tell me their concerns about what is happening in their community. This bill comes about due to recommendations 18, 19, 46 and 181 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report No. 2 and the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence.

It is becoming a very tough job for my local police, who are continuously at the forefront of dealing with what is going on, and it is taking a toll on those individuals. I talk to my local police regularly and they are frustrated with what is happening in our community. When you look at crime statistics from the northern Gold Coast and what is happening when it comes to assault, we have seen steep increases. It is becoming an epidemic. Our community is now terrified of what is happening on their streets. I was recently doorknocking around the Pacific Pines and Maudsland area. Residents said, 'We saw a group of kids walking around the streets at night. What are they up to? Where are their parents?' It has come to the forefront of people's minds. It is getting to the point that residents are now employing security to patrol their streets. Other residents are starting to take matters into their own hands—something I am deeply concerned about—because of the abject failure of this state Labor government watering down the law in 2015 and removing detention as a last resort.

These were both very important pieces of legislation. Section 18 at page 22 of the *Youth Justice Benchbook* addresses the issue of detention as a last resort and for the least amount of time possible. Residents want to feel safe in the streets; they want to feel safe in their homes. When people are getting their houses broken into on a regular basis and those people are carrying weapons, that is not acceptable in our society.

The reason we are here is that of those opposite in the Queensland Labor Party. They look at perpetrators and say, 'They've had a terrible life.' Maybe they have, but it is still no excuse to destroy somebody else's life. It is still not acceptable to destroy somebody else's life. Victims of crime have gone up 213 per cent since 2015. Those opposite cannot say things are any better now because they are not. Queenslanders are fed up with all of these wonderful announcements. We have an 11-point plan today, but if we give it four more months will we have a 12-point plan, a 13-point plan, or will we go back to a three-point plan?

The problem with the Queensland Labor Party is that they refuse to allow these individuals to be taken off the streets in order to protect our streets. The police say on a regular basis that this is a revolving door of justice, and residents are sick of it. Those opposite have lovely little brochures, they carry on and they promise the world, but they do not deliver. They will not deliver anything and they know they will not. Queenslanders are fed up with excuses and they are fed up with what is happening on our streets. Most importantly, they have the right to show Labor the door in 2024.