



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
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Media Release – Labor unethical on crime

Another high-profile Labor minister could be facing a grilling from parliament’s powerful Ethics Committee after Shadow Minister for Police, Dale Last MP, received a response to a question that he has described as “misleading at best”.

The question related to the rate of youth re-offending in Queensland, but the response has led Mr Last questioning whether the Labor state government was using deceit in an attempt to “quell the masses”.

“I’m currently weighing up my options, but the Minister for Youth Justice definitely has some explaining to do,” he said. “She has claimed that data doesn’t exist¹ when, on the same day, the Queensland Police Service has released their Annual Report² which includes that very data.”

“The Palaszczuk government made a commitment to reduce reoffending by juvenile offenders by 5% over 5 years ending June 30 this year. I asked for the reoffending rate for each year and the Minister replied that 2019 was the last available data.”

“The Queensland Police Service Annual Report includes data up until June 30 this year so there is 18 months of data that the Minister, obviously, does not want to share. The Minister can’t claim ignorance because, in the same QPS report, it says that the data is ‘currently used by QPS’ and the Minister’s department.

Mr Last said his office is contacted daily by victims of young offenders and that he would keep fighting for the truth, and solutions, because it is what the victims deserve.

“People just want the truth, and they are sick of being given the run around by the Labor state government,” he said. “When it comes to deciding who to believe, I am sure that Queenslanders have more faith in our Police than the current government.”

“The Minister’s response says youth reoffending in 2019 was 65% yet the Queensland Police Annual Report says the rate for the 2019-20 year was 71%³. To make matters worse, the QPS report quotes a rate of 75% for the 2020-21 financial year so, based on that, the government’s plan to tackle youth crime is a \$500M failure.”



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Sources:

- 1 <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tableOffice/questionsAnswers/2021/909-2021.pdf>
- 2 Page 27: <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/TableOffice/TabledPapers/2021/5721T1595.pdf>
- 3 Page 30: <https://www.police.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/QPS-AR-2019-20-Full-Report.pdf>