



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

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Media Release – Powers against parents go to waste

Shadow Minister for Police & Corrective Services, Dale Last MP, has slammed the government for not ensuring the ‘full force of the law’ is brought to bear on parents of recidivist juvenile offenders.

Mr Last said Legislation already existed that would punish parents who fail to supervise their children and he believes the community deserves to know why it is not being used.

“Section 258 of the Youth Justice Act is very clear,” he said. “A parent can be held as contributing to an offence committed by their child if they have not adequately supervised the child and they can be forced to pay compensation to victims of those crimes.”

“I doubt that anyone would accept that a parent is properly supervising their child if that child is out on the streets committing crime, especially at night. People are sick and tired of these young thugs causing damage, both economically and to victims’ mental health, and their parents doing nothing to stop it.”

“Compensation for damage to the victim’s property as well as injuries that people suffer due to these offences can be ordered to be paid. Just over \$9,200 can be awarded and, even though it might not cover all the damage, that money is better helping the victim than in the pocket of a parent who simply doesn’t care.”

“The court itself can implement the granting of compensation or prosecutors can apply for it. In either case, the Attorney General should be ensuring this section of the law is used because, frankly, the Labor government’s approach to youth crime up until now has done little to stem the tide of victims.”

Mr Last said the Attorney General needed to act urgently.

“Once again, Labor is letting down victims of crime,” Mr Last said. “If this section of the existing law is not being utilised, or being under-utilised, it is our community as a whole, and victims in particular, who are suffering more due to that inaction.”

“The hundreds of victims of crime who have contacted all want to know why parents are not being held to account. Given the law provides for them to be held to account, that is a question the Labor government needs to answer.”



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