



Dale Last MP
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Media Release – Queensland at an intersection on youth crime

A court case centred around a potentially fatal traffic accident at Townsville’s busiest intersection is an illustration of the issues that have led to the youth crime epidemic according to Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last MP.

Mr Last said the only comfort that victims of crime could take from the hearing was that the offender would be held in custody and that the case “undoubtedly proved” the need for young offenders to be able to be charged with Breach of Bail.

“How much more proof does Labor need that bail conditions are virtually worthless when the offender is not able to be charged with Breach of Bail,” Mr Last said. “Here we have an offender who has, night after night, broken his court-imposed curfew because he knows there is nothing Police can do.”

“Instead, under Labor’s so-called ‘*get tough on crime*’ strategy, we had to wait for lives to be put at risk. All the Labor government needs to do is repeal Section 29 (2) (a) of the Bail Act¹ and young offenders like this one could be held to account.”

Mr Last said the case also highlighted the fact that Police were unable to take proactive action against juvenile offenders.

“This young offender was seen at a location sourcing drugs, and yet nothing could be done,” Mr Last said. “Our Police, despite their best efforts, have their hands tied due to the fact that they need to wait until they can prove an offence has taken place.”

“Until the exemption for young offenders is removed from the Bail Act, we will never really be able to tackle the youth crime epidemic and we will have defence lawyers applying for Bail for offenders who have already made a mockery of the bail system.”

“In just over a month since he was released from custody, the offender has breached curfew, gone looking for drugs and he is still able to apply for bail simply because he might not be the driver of a vehicle that put lives at risk. The system is broken and needs to be fixed.”

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Sources:

1. <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-1980-035>