



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 – Government won't come clean on Bail Blitz

The Labor government has again failed to reveal details when it comes to dealing with youth crime according to Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last.

When answering a question asked by Mr Last, Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Mark Ryan, advised that the granting of bail to offenders had been reviewed 1,650 times but provided the outcomes of only 7% of the reviews.

“Just as we have seen with the High Risk Youth Court, the Labor government is keeping the public in the dark,” Mr Last said. “Of the reviews where results were provided, we saw a marked change in the granting of bail, so you have to wonder why the rest of the information wasn't given.”

“The Minister's answer says that, in 86% of the cases where information was given, bail was subsequently refused. If that's the case across all 1,650 reviews, then why wouldn't you share that information with the community?”

Mr Last said “picking and choosing statistics” did nothing to make the community feel safer.

“For years, Labor denied there was even a youth crime problem,” Mr Last said. “If we are going to tackle this problem, the government needs to be open with people and, sadly, that is not happening.”

“People know that, when it comes to bail, offenders are more likely to be bailed than to be held in custody. Bail is being given to offenders and they are thumbing their noses at the conditions, but Labor simply doesn't want to admit the system isn't working.”

“The Youth Justice Act puts more importance on the reputation of the offender than the effects these crimes have on their lives. Where bail is granted, there has to be consequences for failing to adhere to the conditions.”

“People would be right to question why we haven't been given all the results. The fact is that we have seen criminals have their records wiped clean under this Minister's watch so any failure to be up-front usually means the government has something to hide.”



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Question on notice and response: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/tableOffice/questionsAnswers/2021/217-2021.pdf>