



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs

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Media Release – Last speaks out for Cairns victims of crime

Shadow Minister for Police, Dale Last MP, is echoing calls for action on youth crime in Far North Queensland and will launch a petition calling for major reforms to both the youth justice and child safety systems in Cairns today.

Mr Last said he was saddened to hear from residents in the region that they felt unrepresented and that their voices were not being heard.

“Concerns around youth crime are escalating throughout the state and, unfortunately, Cairns and the Far North are no different,” Mr Last said. “People are scared and angry and yet their local Members of Parliament are denying there is a problem or simply ignoring them.”

“Instead of acting in the interests of their constituents, the local members are standing there nodding while Ministers re-announce old news and try to convince people that Labor is serious about addressing youth crime.”

Mr Last said that, as a former Police Officer, he knew it was essential for victims of crime to be heard.

“Crime has both a financial and an emotional effect on victims,” he said. “I’ve had parents tell me their children are scared to sleep in their own beds after their house has been broken into.”

“Those people need to be listened to, not ignored. This petition is one step in ensuring that victims and other members of the community are heard.”

“The number one priority of any government should be to ensure the safety of the people. We have heard that time and time again in relation to the COVID pandemic but, when it comes to crime, the victims are ignored and, quite often, the offenders are back on the streets in no time.”

“I agreed to sponsor the petition because it is the voice of the community. We are not asking for anything extraordinary; just to be respected and to have our concerns heard and acted on.”

“Surely that isn’t too much to ask.”

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