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**Media Release – Last calls for inquiry into failure to protect
Cleveland staff**

Shadow Minister for Corrective Services Dale Last has called for an independent inquiry into the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, fearing its only a matter of time before the government's failure to protect the centre's staff will have fatal consequences.

Speaking in Townsville today, Mr Last said the revelations that staff were leaving home to go to work fearing it may be the last time they see their families, should be ringing alarm bells with the state government.

"It's been more than four years since the riot at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre and despite the horrific injuries, staff at the centre are still fearing they will be assaulted at work," Mr Last said.

"The Labor government's focus is solely on offenders and ignores victims of crime and the people who have to care for the offenders when they are in custody."

"The revelations about the goings on at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre shows that the Labor government is failing on addressing youth crime and is also failing the hard-working staff who work in the centre."

"The last inspection report (March 2021) specifically mentions staff shortages so the Minister cannot say she is not aware of those issues."

Mr Last said the state government had the opportunity to provide better protection for workers Cleveland Youth Detention Centre with legislation due to go before parliament this year but had already demonstrated staff safety was not a priority.

"There is Legislation due to go before parliament this year to establish an Inspector of Detention Services who will be responsible for ensuring the rights of people held in jails, detention centres and watch houses. There is not one mention in that legislation about the rights of the staff working in places like Cleveland to go home safely each day," Mr Last said.



“The Youth Justice Act outlines the responsibilities of the Chief Executive when it comes to detention centres. There is not one mention of ensuring the safety of staff and that is simply not good enough.”

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