



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

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Media Release – Cairns youth crime blasts adult figures

A Cairns resident is more likely to have their house broken into or their car stolen by a juvenile than an adult offender, according to statistics revealed by Shadow Minister for Police Dale Last.

Queensland Police crime statistics revealed in the last 12 months to February this year, 1099 charges of unlawful entry had been laid on juvenile offenders in Cairns, compared to 403 charges of unlawful entry laid on adult offenders in the same period.

After speaking out about youth crime in Cairns for a second time in Parliament this year, Mr Last said the latest figures should be triggering more than just head nods from the local members.

“While it was nice to see heads pop out of the sand for a moment this week in Parliament, the people of Cairns and Far North Queensland want to know where the response is to their crisis, because there is absolutely no response from their local members,” Mr Last said.

“It took my motion in Parliament this week for the public to hear from the Member for Cook where she said in Parliament, that there were not enough solutions offered to address the issue of youth crime but at the same time failed to call on her Labor mates to do more.”

Mr Last said it was not just unlawful entry that painted a stark picture of crime for Cairns with 760 charges of unlawful use of a motor vehicle laid on youths in Cairns, compared to 255 charges laid on adults in the same period.

“As youth crime ramped up in Far North and North Queensland, so many people said it would take the loss of life for this government to step up and do something. Well we’ve seen at least nine deaths, literally thousands of lives affected and still no real action or answer on how this government is going to reduce youth crime,” Mr Last said.

Mr Last said with revelations coming from within multiple government agencies, the community had a right to be angry at the lack of action by the state government.

“There is no denying addressing youth crime is a complex issue, but that should not be an excuse used by local members every time their communities question what they are doing about it,” Mr Last said.

“It’s time the ‘complex issue’ excuse, triggered action among this state government to actually address youth crime from all fronts, rather than using it as a reason for wiping their hands at the issue.

“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.”



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