



**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 – Ministers add more mud to youth crime**

Attempts by Shadow Minister for Police & Corrective Services, Dale Last MP, to get the truth on the youth crime epidemic have been scuttled by Labor ministers who, instead of adding clarity, “muddied the waters” even more according to Mr Last.

With Townsville the scene of violent car-jackings over the weekend, Mr Last repeated his calls for the community to be given the truth and said, without honesty from the government, the city could easily become a powder-keg.

“Make no mistake, there is white hot anger in Townsville following the weekend’s events and years of out of control youth crime,” Mr Last said. “Leaders should be up front with the community but we have three Townsville Labor MP’s and a raft of Ministers who are deliberately muddying the waters and refusing to release reports on taxpayer-funded programs.”

“The Palaszczuk government pledged to cut youth reoffending by 5% by June 30, 2021<sup>1</sup>. That commitment was included in a Queensland Police Annual Report but, when I asked about it at Estimates, both the Commissioner and Police Minister couldn’t, or wouldn’t, answer.”

Mr Last said that, while the key figure was not supplied, many other figures were offered that prompted more answers than questions.

“The Police Commissioner admitted that more than 70% of young offenders are charged with another offence within 12 months of finalising a previous offence<sup>2</sup>,” Mr Last said. “That is a damning illustration that the current system is not preventing reoffending at alarmingly high rates.”

“The following day, the Minister for Youth Justice said 77% of young offenders who take part in restorative justice do not reoffend or reduce their offending. She went on to say that 67% of participants in Transition to Success don’t reoffend in the 12 months following their course.”<sup>3</sup>

“That all sounds rosy but, the fact is, more than 70% of young offenders ARE reoffending. The numbers just don’t add up.”



“And, I note, that not one mention was made, by either Minister, of Project Booyah. While the Member for Thuringowa rabbles on about its success, his superiors don’t want to talk about it.”

“Taxpayers are spending millions on all these programs and Ministers and Labor MP’s are pouring out figures that sound good to try and quell the masses. Meanwhile, the public knows Labor has lost control of youth justice and their beliefs are proven by none other than the Police Commissioner.”

“If the relevant Ministers and the three Townsville Labor MP’s don’t offer a real solution in the not too distant future, I fear we will see even more carnage, more deaths on the streets of Townsville and, quite possibly, vigilante justice.”

“This community is at a tipping point. There is no denying that.”

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Sources:

- 1 Page 12: <https://www.police.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-09/FINAL%20QPS%20AR%202018-19.pdf>
- 2 Page 43: [https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2021/2021\\_08\\_12\\_EstimatesLAC.pdf](https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2021/2021_08_12_EstimatesLAC.pdf)
- 3 Page 60: [https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2021/2021\\_08\\_13\\_EstimatesCSC.pdf](https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2021/2021_08_13_EstimatesCSC.pdf)