

NO BODY, NO PAROLE

**Strengthening Parole,
Supporting Victims of Crime and
Keeping our Community Safe**

 **DELIVERED**

The Liberal National Party led the way in denying parole to convicted killers who refuse to assist in revealing the location of their victims.

The Problem

Queensland is stagnating, the community is crying out for leadership and we have a government stuck in neutral.

While other states and territories have moved to implement strong parole reforms, **Labor sat idle while victims of crime continued to suffer and weren't afforded the closure that would be provided by these reforms. Labor were dragged kicking and screaming to get these reforms passed into law.**

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is soft on crime, favouring offenders ahead of victims. There is no better demonstration of this than Anastacia Palaszczuk's former Police Minister blaming Townsville residents for a local crime spree.

Labor's softening of tough bail laws creates a revolving door justice system which puts offenders back on the street to reoffend again and again.

Our Record

In government, the LNP introduced a number of strong law reforms and supported victims of crime through increased funding to victim advocacy organisations.

When it came to crime, we stood on the side of the victim and this was reflected in our tough on crime approach.

We introduced laws that enabled a victim to read their **victim impact statement** before a sentencing court if the victim so wished, and it was reasonable in the circumstances.

We gave an additional \$2 million to organisations that support victims of crime and an additional \$750,000 over three years to the Women's Legal Service.

Delivering from Opposition

The Tim Nicholls-led LNP team led the way in ensuring *No Body, No Parole* laws were implemented in Queensland. From the time we announced our policy in November 2016, we were determined to ensure these laws were passed through the Parliament as quickly as possible.

Our laws apply to offenders serving a prison sentence for murder, manslaughter and a number of associated offences relating to an unlawful death where the body has never been located. To grant parole, the Parole Board must be satisfied that the offender has co-operated satisfactorily in the investigation of the offence to identify the location, or last known location, of the remains of the victim.

The laws apply to criminals who have not yet been released from jail on parole, not those already on parole or out of jail.

These reforms put Queensland in line with South Australia, Northern Territory and Victoria, while Western Australia and New South Wales are actively considering *No Body, No Parole* laws.

Queenslanders will be safer under an LNP Government focused on improving community safety for everyone by reducing crime and supporting victims of crime.

We'll be a common sense government that listens, plans and acts to build a better Queensland.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What will these reforms mean for Queensland families?

By passing *No Body, No Parole* laws, there will be considerable pressure on offenders to reveal the last known whereabouts of the victim of an unlawful killing.

We've felt strongly about this policy which rebalances the scales of justice in favour of families of Queensland homicide victims.

In passing these important reforms, we want to pay tribute to Fiona Splitt who started the original petition and Gary and Leanne Pullen who fought long and hard to have these important changes become law.

Both of these families have suffered tragedies and deserve the opportunity to say goodbye to their loved ones with the farewell they deserve.

We hope that these reforms help them, and families like them, find justice and closure.

Why is this an important reform?

This will provide offenders with an opportunity to show remorse for their crime by rebalancing the scales of justice back in favour of victims trying to find closure in the tragic circumstances of losing a loved one.

What is the punishment for someone convicted of murder in Queensland?

The punishment for murder in Queensland is life in prison. That means if a person is convicted of murder they are sentenced to natural life in prison, which has been the case since 1899.

How does parole apply to someone convicted of murder in Queensland?

A person convicted of murder can be eligible for parole but only after serving a minimum of 20 years in prison. The former LNP Government increased this from 15 years to 20 years. This is called the minimum non-parole period.

Offenders are not guaranteed parole and will still need to satisfy the Parole Board that they are not a danger to the community. They are ineligible for parole for at least 20 years.

Does this change mean that a person convicted of murder who doesn't cooperate with police could be in jail for the rest of their life?

Yes – but that is the case now anyway. A person convicted of murder under the current system could spend the rest of their natural life in prison.

What if a person who was convicted of a crime doesn't know where the body is or the body has moved, for example, washed down stream?

The Parole Board only has to be satisfied that the offender is trying to reasonably co-operate. If the offender does try to co-operate and the body is still not found, they can still be eligible for parole.

What if a person was wrongly accused and didn't commit the crime and therefore doesn't know where the body is?

That offender has already been convicted and is in prison. As long as they reasonably try to co-operate with the police and the Parole Board are satisfied, then they will still be eligible for parole.

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**Together, Let's
Build a Better
Queensland**