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Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 17 September 2025

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WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

ABSENCE OF SPEAKER


The Clerk informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Speaker for this day's sitting. In accordance with standing order 12(1), the Deputy Speaker shall take the chair as Acting Speaker.

Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Krause, member for Scenic Rim) read prayers and took the chair.


 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I acknowledge the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people of this state and their elders past, present and emerging. I also acknowledge the former members of this parliament who have participated in and nourished the democratic institutions of this state. Finally, I acknowledge the people of this state, whether they have been born here or have chosen to make this state their home and whom we represent to make laws and conduct other business for the peace, welfare and good government of this state.

ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Deputy Speaker

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I inform the House that in the absence of the Speaker, and in accordance with standing order 12(2), I nominate the member for Southern Downs to act as Deputy Speaker for the duration of Mr Speaker's absence.

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this afternoon by students and teachers from St Joseph's Primary School in the electorate of Gregory.

Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this afternoon by youth members of the council from the electorate of Ipswich.

Finally, honourable members, I acknowledge that we are joined by the president of Gold Coast District Neighbourhood Watch, Rhys McFarland, in the gallery this afternoon. Welcome.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, lodged by the honourable member indicated—

Savannahlander

Mr Knuth, from 235 petitioners, requesting the House to urgently ensure the repair of the Savannahlander rail line to full operation [[1255](#)].

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, sponsored by the Clerk—


South Kolan Police Station

149 petitioners, requesting the House to increase the number of police officers and administration staff for the South Kolan Police station [[1256](#)].

Petitions received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Community Safety

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.03 pm): Our government is committed to restoring safety where you live. A decade of decline under Labor saw laws weakened and police resources stretched. We promised we would put Queenslanders' rights first and we promised we would listen. We are delivering on those promises.

Over the last few months our government has hosted a series of workshops to listen to community concerns about antisocial behaviour. In places like Townsville, Maryborough, Cairns and Mackay antisocial behaviour has been allowed to spiral out of control. The issues that create this behaviour are often complex, but we are determined to restore safety to these proud communities. Our first forum was in Townsville, where I joined the members for Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa. We met with local government, business and industry representatives, social services, community organisations, police and other key stakeholders.

To find solutions that will work for these communities it is vital that we listen to locals on the ground with their on-the-ground knowledge. In Maryborough antisocial behaviour has brought the CBD to its knees. Local businesses and their staff should be confident they can invest and operate without being disrupted by persistent antisocial behaviour. The member for Maryborough has been a strong advocate in trying to find solutions for local businesses in his community. I heard firsthand how the former government's soft-on-drugs approach has seen this problem spiral out of control.

Last week I joined the member for Mackay in his electorate to hold forums to listen to community concerns. Mackay is an important regional hub and it is important we return safety to the CBD. I also travelled to Cairns to host a forum with the member for Mulgrave and the member for Barron River. Cairns is a tourism hotspot. Local families and tourists should be able to safely enjoy all that our state has to offer. Combined with the state's largest ever youth crime crackdown in the far north, the forum was just another example of our commitment to make Cairns safer.

Across all forums we have learned about local challenges caused by public intoxication, drugs and antisocial behaviour. The insights and solutions we gain from these forums will help us create local action plans that are specific to each community. Developed together with locals, we want to see a range of workable ideas. We know that these are complex issues and we will never eliminate this behaviour entirely, but we must do better for these communities. Our government is taking every step to deliver safety where you live.

Resources Industry, BHP



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.06 pm): I want to address news today that BHP has decided to scale back operations at a Queensland mine. It will impact 750 jobs. There is no doubt this is a really difficult time for those workers. The company has flagged the uncertainty of regulations and taxation caused as a result of decisions—without consultation—made by the former government. What we must now establish is the stability that Queensland is a safe place in which to invest.

Just last month we secured hundreds of new jobs and investment in our resources sector through the expansion of the Carmichael coalmine. An agreement was done but it was never honoured under the former government. These are new jobs that would never have happened if Queenslanders had not voted for change.

While in Japan and India I spoke to companies about investing in Queensland coal, and I hope to have some exciting developments to announce shortly. Our government is working to restore confidence in our resources industry. The days of the government being at war with the industry are over.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.07 pm): Less than 11 months ago Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and I can say the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering the generational infrastructure those opposites never could. In our first 11 months in office Queenslanders have seen what is possible when they have a government that is not only delivery focused but also not distracted by the chaos and crisis that plagued our predecessors during their decade of decline.

The Crisafulli government, through our 2032 Delivery Plan, is delivering a real legacy for all Queenslanders and getting the Olympic and Paralympic Games back on track. We are off and running with our 2032 Delivery Plan, with procurement opportunities rolling out right across the state.

Today I can announce the appointment of Arup as the principal contractor for the Victoria Park Precinct Master Plan. Arup, a firm with a large Queensland presence, is able to draw on their international experience from the London 2012 games, Sydney 2000 and Paris 2024. A key part of this project are the complex overlay requirements that a games precinct requires, including the safe movement of athletes, visitors and equipment which Arup planned for the London games.

This transformative project will reimagine this inner Brisbane precinct as a world-class hub for recreation, events, entertainment and lifestyle, leaving a lasting legacy for Queenslanders well beyond the 2032 games. The co-location of the Brisbane stadium, the National Aquatic Centre and the athletes village at the RNA showgrounds provides the opportunity to create a world-class recreation and lifestyle hub. It comes a week after the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority, GIICA, announced that expressions of interest are now open for principal architects for the Brisbane stadium and the National Aquatic Centre.

The master plan will identify the major pieces of connectivity and public realm infrastructure required for the precinct to operate both during the games and in the decades beyond. This follows the recent Queensland Heritage Council decision to recognise that the new Brisbane stadium will add to the historical value of the site. The master plan will focus on world-class and iconic public and green spaces, improving connectivity and creating memorable experiences for the thousands expected to enjoy the precinct during and long after the games.

This is the first contract awarded for stadium delivery since Queensland won the games in 2021. We have done in 10 months what the Labor Party could not do for over 1,200 days. Despite having the longest runway of any games host city in the history of the Olympiad, Labor could not deliver a single contract, let alone a venue. Now, thanks to the Crisafulli government's Delivery Plan, we have been able to restore confidence and excitement about the games and make genuine progress.

Workplace Health and Safety, Asbestos



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.10 pm): I want to inform the House about an emerging issue involving asbestos-containing material detected in Queensland. Last month, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland were advised that a Victorian importer had supplied asbestos-containing products to a Queensland business, which then manufactured and onsold fire safety doors containing the contaminated material to other businesses across Queensland.

Upon being notified, the regulator took immediate action and on the following day attended the site to investigate, resulting in the employer taking a number of remediation steps, including a full decontamination of the site. The regulator has since written to all affected Queensland businesses providing advice about the nature of the risk, legislative duties and recommended actions, and has issued a safety alert on its website. The regulator will continue to monitor the situation and I have asked them to provide me with regular updates. Of course, the safety of Queenslanders is my priority.

I expect a comprehensive investigation to be undertaken by the Victorian government to ensure this never happens again. This is why last month on 29 August I wrote to the Victorian Deputy Premier and Minister for WorkSafe requesting that he investigate the full extent of the supply of the asbestos-containing material, including what proactive steps he is taking to ensure Victoria is not importing and distributing more asbestos products to Queensland from China. I table a copy of this letter and copies of the media release put out by Workplace Health and Safety from last week on this subject.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 29 August 2025, from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, to the Victorian Deputy Premier and Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC, Hon. Ben Carroll, regarding the supply of asbestos containing material to a manufacturing business in Queensland [1257].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 11 September 2025, from the Executive Director Compliance and Field Services, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, Ms Sarina Wise, regarding a notification of asbestos detected in fire rated board used in fire doors [1258].

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 12 September 2025, of WorkSafe.qld.gov.au website, titled 'Imported Asbestos Fire Door Core' [1259].

Resources Industries, BHP



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.11 pm): It is disappointing to hear today of BHP's closure of the Saraji South mine later this year with the associated loss of 750 jobs. Just four weeks ago, BHP posted a \$16 billion global profit. While the global mining giant has enjoyed multibillion dollar profits in Queensland and has chosen to focus its action on commercial decisions, today our government remains focused on the workers and Queensland communities affected by BHP's decision. My heart goes out to these affected workers and their families, together with the communities impacted by this decision.

The Crisafulli government strongly supports the coal industry in Queensland, after the former Labor government demonised the industry and those who depended on it for the last decade. BHP's decision comes on the heels of its 2022 pausing of the open-cut Blackwater South mine, which was due to create 750 construction jobs and 1,200 operational jobs, and the announced closure of the Mount Arthur mine in the Hunter Valley.

It is common knowledge that the coal sector has been hit with rising costs of production and lower coal prices. Treasury assessment of WoodMac data reveals that average operating costs have increased by A\$42 a tonne between 2021 and 2025. By comparison, forecast royalty impacts in 2025-26 total an additional \$5.60 a tonne for the tiers introduced by Labor in 2022. The uncertainty created by these new tiers that were implemented without consultation by the former Labor government has been significant. Mining employs 45,000 Queenslanders—a record high for the industry and an increase of 8,000 in recent years.

Since the election of the Crisafulli government, we have seen Bravus's announcement of a major expansion of the Carmichael Mine that will open the door to \$500 million of additional investment in the state. We have also seen Coronado's Curragh expansion and 11 mining lease renewals approved. Just yesterday, New Hope reported that the continued execution of their growth plans had increased production, underpinning a reduction in unit costs. CEO Mr Bishop noted that despite a low coal price environment their assets remain resilient and continue to generate solid margins through the cycle.

There remains significant interest from local and overseas capital in acquiring and expanding coal assets. The Crisafulli government stands ready to ensure those investment decisions can be made as quickly as possible. We look forward to some exciting investment announcements in Queensland mining in the near future.

Resources Industries, BHP



Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.14 pm): After a decade of decline in the relationship between the mining sector and the Queensland government, I rise to reaffirm the Crisafulli government's unwavering support for Queensland's coal industry and for the thousands of hardworking men and women who rely on it. Coal has built modern Queensland. It powers our homes, drives our industry and provides well-paid jobs that sustain regional communities across the Bowen and Galilee basins.

At the front of my mind today are the workers of BHP impacted by job losses across its Queensland operations, particularly those working at its Saraji South mine. BHP's decision to place the Saraji South mine into care and maintenance is a difficult day for those families, communities and contractors who depend on that operation. My thoughts, and the thoughts of this government, are with every worker affected. They deserved better from BHP.

This decision is ultimately a commercial one by BHP, reflecting the low margins at that particular mine. However, when a company makes a commercial decision to wind back production, the impact is felt across those communities. I must bring to the attention of the House the un-Australian decision of BHP to review the FutureFit Academy. It is a slap in the face to the people who want to commit to their future in the coalmining sector. That is why the Crisafulli government is so determined to rebuild confidence and attract new investment.


Let me be clear: Queensland coal has a strong future. Global demand for Queensland coal is projected to remain strong for decades, particularly in our export markets. Steel producers in places like India and Japan want our metallurgical coal. Those nations are not just demanding more coal; they are demanding Queensland coal because it is high quality, efficient and produced under world-leading environmental and safety standards. That demand presents an enormous opportunity for this state if we get the policy settings right.

Under the Crisafulli government, we are doing exactly that. Through our Resources Cabinet Committee, we are cutting red tape, delivering faster and clearer decisions, and ensuring projects are not left in limbo, and we are already seeing results. Bravus has announced a major expansion of the Carmichael Mine, the first stage of a half a billion dollar program that will create 600 jobs. That expansion will deliver critical infrastructure like new accommodation, water storage and rail maintenance facilities, providing more work for suppliers in Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton. That is what confidence looks like; that is what certainty brings. We have made it clear: investment is welcome in Queensland. We back coal, and we back coal jobs.

Contrast this with the decade of decline Queenslanders saw from the former Labor government. Labor's unpredictable policies drove investment off a cliff. They dithered and delayed approvals. They let inner-city activists dictate their agenda, while regional workers paid the price. The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring Queensland's reputation as a place to invest by delivering certainty and stability. We are ensuring coal communities know their government is on their side.

Coal jobs are Queensland jobs. They are the dragline operator in Moranbah, the truck driver in Blackwater, the apprentice in Rockhampton and the small business owner in Mackay. These jobs sustain towns, fund hospitals and schools, and underpin our state's prosperity. That is why the Crisafulli government will always back coal. It is why we will continue to fight for coal jobs, and it is why we will keep backing those coal communities who now have a government that backs them.

Queensland Community Housing Investment Pipeline

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.18 pm): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on how the Crisafulli government is empowering community housing providers to deliver more homes for our most vulnerable Queenslanders. They are essential partners in delivering our target of 53,500 new social and community homes across our state by 2044. For too long, the community housing sector has been overlooked and undersupported. After Labor's decade of decline, Queensland is far behind the rest of the nation in community housing.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the ruling of Mr Speaker on 24 June in relation to the conduct of ministers in delivering ministerial statements. I want to draw your attention to the repeated use of pejorative slogans by a number of ministers, including this minister. These ministers hold a presumptive right to make a ministerial statement, and an authority in Westminster—

Mr Bleijie: It's a point of order, not a speech.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members on my right. Let me hear. I will manage the conduct of members making points of order as well. Manager of Opposition Business, I understand your point of order is around the ruling made under standing order 62(1)?

Mr de BRENNI: I seek to draw your attention to further detail that I would like you to give consideration to. This authority is derived from the commission of—

Mr Perrett: This is not a speech. It is a point of order.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, please continue.

Mr de BRENNI: I am happy to provide the point of order if I get silence from those opposite.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Can you come to your point of order which I understand is in relation to standing order 62(1).

Mr de BRENNI: It is.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, this is not an opportunity to make a speech on an issue. However, if you wish to come to your point succinctly, I will hear it.

Mr de BRENNI: It is succinct. This right is given to ministers of the Crown, granted by His Majesty the King, and when exercising these rights under the standing orders, they do so on behalf of the Crown, not on behalf of the party, not as individuals. Accordingly—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to the Manager of Opposition Business now straying into a lengthy preamble, and I would ask that he be drawn back to his specific point of order that he wishes to raise.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, I have heard everything you have said so far, including your reference to, and objection to, particular terminology used by government ministers in their ministerial statements so far. Manager of Opposition Business, I know what your point of order is. I have been listening carefully to the ministerial statements so far and it is my view that they are in line with the ruling made by the Speaker earlier this year and, accordingly, I would ask you to resume your seat. There is no point of order at this point in time.

Mr O'CONNOR: Queensland is far behind the rest of the nation in community housing. Barely one in five social homes are run by community housing providers across our state, compared to one-third in New South Wales and two-thirds in Tasmania. That is why we are making it easier for

providers to deliver homes sooner to help reduce the number of vulnerable Queenslanders on the Social Housing Register. After seven years of delays under the previous Labor government, which included several failed housing ministers such as the member for Springwood, we are delivering on the new Community Housing Master Agreement.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Perhaps I can continue—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: My point of order is that ministers have a presumed right in this House—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr de BRENNI:—to provide a ministerial statement on behalf of the Crown. The use of pejorative slogans, the use of political attacks and personal attacks blur the distinction between a minister of the Crown and ordinary members of parliament. I therefore—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Are you making the same point of order?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Member for Clayfield, please, I caution you. Manager of Opposition Business, I have another point of order on your point of order which I would love to take. Leader of the House, what is your point of order?

Dr ROWAN: My point of order is in relation to the Manager of Opposition Business and his point of order. There is again a lengthy preamble leading up to a point of order and I would ask that he be drawn back to making—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I understand your point of order, Leader of the House, very clearly. Manager of Opposition Business, are you making the same point of order that you did previously under standing order 62(1)?

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I submit to you the minister is in contempt of the ruling, is breaching his duty as a minister and therefore I ask you to rule on the pejorative slogans and pejorative statements which are out of order for the time available for ministerial statements.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, I have heard your point of order twice now. I understand what you are saying. I have been listening carefully to the minister in accordance with the ruling made by Mr Speaker earlier this year in the context of reporting back on the outcome of government performance, and I do not believe you have a point of order at this point in time. Could you resume your seat, please.

Mr O'CONNOR: We are delivering the new Community Housing Master Agreement, modernising and streamlining more than 2,000 outdated and inconsistent agreements into just over 100. Now we have opened the new Community Housing Investment Pipeline or Q-CHIP. Q-CHIP makes Queensland the only place in Australia with an always-open procurement process that allows community housing providers and their partners to lodge projects for assessment at any time. The process is simple and efficient, from pre-submission discussions with our team through to expression of interest, detailed proposal, contract negotiation and construction. Those early discussions are critical. Our teams will help providers to tailor and target their projects—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, stop the quarrelling across the House—all members, please, left and right.

Mr O'CONNOR: Providers will no longer be constrained by limited grant programs. This is all about securing a long-term, continual supply of new community homes, backed by record funding of \$5.6 billion, secured as part of our first budget, alongside our baseline of at least \$500 million to be provided per year from 2029-30 ongoing without an end date.

After an average of 509 social homes were delivered per year over the last decade of Labor, right now our LNP government has around 6,000 social and affordable homes currently under contract or under construction. Sixty per cent of these homes will be delivered by community housing providers.


I was proud to launch Q-CHIP earlier this month in Waterford West where we kicked off construction on 44 new homes. These are the first of 255 new social and affordable homes for southern Queensland, being delivered in partnership with Community Housing Queensland Limited. Construction is set to begin on the remaining homes in Park Ridge, Marsden, Woodridge, Miles, Chinchilla and Roma by the end of the year. Today in Alexandra Hills, with the member for Capalaba, we turned the first sod on 15 new one-bedroom homes for older women with community housing provider Mangrove Housing

as part of the Forgotten Women Project. CHQL and Mangrove Housing are two of more than 30 registered community housing providers we are working with to boost housing supply right across our state. Community Housing Industry Association CEO Julie Saunders said—

Q-CHIP will allow us to work alongside government to bring forward more projects, more quickly, for Queenslanders who need them most. This new process will give community housing providers the certainty to plan, partner and build at scale.

We are calling for new projects and are ready to receive submissions to deliver much needed homes for vulnerable Queenslanders after a decade of underinvestment by the former Labor government. In just the first couple of weeks since Q-CHIP was launched, we have received 10 proposals from community housing providers. These are the first of many as we do things differently to turn around the housing crisis we inherited by delivering more places to call home in every corner of Queensland.

Sunshine Coast, Waterways

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.28 pm): Tragically, the Sunshine Coast community recently experienced the loss of our charter boat skipper Robert 'Smithy' Smith who lost his life crossing the Mooloolah River bar on the morning of 27 August this year. Our thoughts go out to his family, including his wife, Jules, and son, Joel. They, like the rest of our tight-knit community, want answers about what went wrong that day. The matter remains under investigation by relevant authorities, so it would be inappropriate for me to make further comment about the specifics of that particular incident.


However, I can say that the dynamic and challenging nature of that bar crossing has been understood for many years. I want to acknowledge the work done by Maritime Safety Queensland to try to manage those risks. I would also like to acknowledge the members of the stakeholder reference group that was established to provide guidance to MSQ.

That group helped develop and has endorsed the Western Channel Trial to dredge the bar to provide safer deepwater access from the western side of the channel entrance. Targeted dredging of the Mooloolah River bar was recently completed, in June this year, and follow-up surveys were undertaken in July and August of this year. Warnings have also regularly been provided by MSQ to mariners as required. However, after discussing the matter with my Sunshine Coast colleagues the Deputy Premier, the member for Kawana, and the member for Maroochydore, who have been strong advocates for more action for many years, I believe it is appropriate to have a fresh look at these issues. That is why I have asked my department to commission an expert independent review to investigate the shoaling events at the Mooloolah River bar. Short- and long-term recommendations will be developed, taking into account varying stakeholder views, to help prevent and/or mitigate shoaling events. When evaluating possible interventions, the impacts on community, tourism operators, recreational users like surfers and maritime users must be considered.

The Crisafulli government is also committed to establishing the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority. It is a commitment that we made before the last election and it is a commitment that we will deliver. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority is about giving local people on the Sunshine Coast a greater say in the way their waterways are managed. It is an example of how the Crisafulli government is delivering for the people of the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will have a longer term responsibility for managing the Mooloolah River bar and any ongoing recommendations from the review.

All members know that the sea is a dangerous place, and there is a family on the Sunshine Coast that today knows that all too well. While there is no solution for the Mooloolah River that will ever completely eliminate the risks, we owe it to all of the people who use the area to make sure we have done all that is reasonably practical to address those concerns. The Crisafulli government is about delivering practical outcomes and we believe in listening to locals. This review and the establishment of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will ensure we deliver.

Locust Control

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (2.31 pm): When I spoke earlier this year about the floods in Western Queensland, I warned this House that the impacts were not only immediate but would also be felt for months and years down the track. North-West and Central West Queenslanders are now experiencing the devastating impact of swarms of locusts because of high rainfall and flooding.

This morning I was in Hughenden to announce an additional \$4.5 million of state funding for locust control across the state, including areas which have not been covered by the Plague Pest Contingency Fund. This complements the \$1 million of funding announced last month under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and the \$500,000 from the Plague Pest Contingency Fund. This is additional funding to help combat locusts impacting new cropping regions and grazing land. In addition to the funding, our government will also undertake a policy review into existing locust controls. I think this will be welcome news for the member for Gregory, who has been a strong advocate for action. I thank him for the attention he has given to representing his constituents.

I take this opportunity to recognise industry's input into the Department of Primary Industries locust taskforce, which was stood up in July. We have taken the industry's issues seriously and this is a timely and measured response. I was pleased to make this announcement alongside Flinders mayor Kate Peddle; local councillor and AgForce president Shane McCarthy; and the member for Traeger, Robbie Katter. They welcomed our support.

The locust swarms are widely dispersed across approximately 5.4 million hectares of land, with official reports from the Croydon, Carpentaria, Richmond, Winton, Longreach, Barcaldine and Flinders local government areas. The region has significantly changed. Cropping activity in the North-West Queensland minerals province has increased by 329 per cent in the last six years. Shires like Richmond and Flinders were not included in the state fund set up to manage locusts in cropping areas. This is the first time this region has had support. These additional funds will help us undertake large-scale aerial and ground control. Control efforts will be focused on targeted surveillance and aerial treatment of locust nymphs to drastically reduce numbers before they can fly and migrate. This year's widespread flooding and humid winter in Western Queensland has created ideal conditions for locusts to increase to plague-like numbers and cause significant stress for producers. Reports show the locusts have been migrating northward, reinforcing the need for a timely response. Some graziers have described the swarms as apocalyptic. Footage of bands in flight are confronting for any viewer but especially those who know the value of grass and crops.

As members would know, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation under the Biosecurity Act. We are supporting farmers and graziers when the challenges they face become too large to manage on their own or when a collective solution is the best course of action. We are investing now to prevent this pest from multiplying and causing more destruction. There is a short period of time in the locust life cycle to deal with the next generation before they can fly. That window could start this month, which is why we are moving with urgency.

A fledgling cropping region like the north-west needs our support if we are to reach our ambitious target of growing the value of primary production output to \$30 billion by 2030. We are addressing the problem at its source to support local grazing and cropping properties. The state and federal governments must keep pace with the needs of industry and provide support when necessary. When the floods hit the region, I told this House that the Crisafulli government promised primary producers we would be with them for the long haul, that we had their back. We are taking our biosecurity responsibilities seriously.

Sport, Infrastructure and Grants



Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.35 pm): The Crisafulli government is delivering for grassroots community sport in Queensland. After a decade of decline in sporting infrastructure under the previous Labor government, the Crisafulli LNP government has spent the last 10 months reversing that decline and delivering on our commitments to get Queensland sport back on track. The Games On! program is building new and upgraded playing fields and courts, clubhouses, changing rooms and lighting across the state. Over 100 projects have been funded under Games On! With 65 funding agreements now executed, we are getting on with it.

At Rockhampton Sports Precinct, the Queensland government is providing \$47 million to provide a home for netball, including 16 netball courts and a clubhouse. The layout of this site has now been finalised and the works on the site will start next year. While at Rockhampton recently I visited Gracemere Junior Rugby League Club, which is thrilled to receive \$3 million for a new clubhouse. A further \$23½ million has been committed for stage 2 of the Great Barrier Reef Arena upgrade in Mackay, and there will be new artificial turf laid soon at Grange Thistle Soccer Club in the electorate of Stafford. We are also delivering \$620,000 for upgrades at the Bundaberg Netball Association and

\$30,000 for Calliope Football Club to upgrade their fields and facilities. I understand that the Cairns Rugby League club is preparing to begin its project. I am hoping that is one post the member for Cairns can share on his Facebook when construction begins!

On top of this, we are making sport more affordable for Queenslanders through the LNP's new \$200 Play On! Sports Vouchers program. The program is being delivered over two rounds to ensure more kids get to play. The response to the first round has been nothing short of amazing—a ringing endorsement of the LNP's new policy. From the cape to Coolangatta, every single eligible child who has applied for a voucher has received one, including many who have a disability. In Toowoomba, we have registered 94 Play On! activity providers so far. Fifty-eight of those support inclusive sports and four have joined the voucher program for the first time. I have been flooded with positive messages from sports clubs and organisations. Shahra McDonnell, the club president of Valleys Diehards Rugby League, said—

A lot of our families wouldn't be able to play sport without Play On! vouchers.

Des Warnock from Sandgate Hawks Football Club said—

By easing the financial pressures for families these vouchers help more young players experience all the great things that come with being part of a local footy club like ours.

Unlike under the Labor Party, who only provided a one-year sugar hit and did not fund the vouchers beyond 30 June this year, Play On! will be funded every year, with an additional \$10 million. We have spent the last 10 months delivering for sport in Queensland and we have many more months to go.

Environmental Protection; Burleigh Head National Park, Fire



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.38 pm): The Crisafulli government is proudly delivering on our promise to ensure a better environment for all Queenslanders. We said we would back the grassroots groups across our state that roll up their sleeves and get on with the job, and we have. For too long under Labor's decade of decline Queenslanders saw environmental targets missed, promises broken and protected areas neglected.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to the use of the pejorative slogan in ministerial statements and submit to you that that is inconsistent with the intent of standing order 62. I ask you to rule on that.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. I am going to seek some advice.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order. I am seeking advice from the Clerk. Manager of Opposition Business, I have been listening carefully to the minister's statement. I do not believe there is a point of order but you have given me an opportunity, having sought advice from the Clerk, to make some other comments in relation to this issue you have been raising on a number of occasions—and you are well within your rights to do that.

Mr Speaker's ruling in June provides an understanding of rules relating to ministerial statements. Nothing in that statement said that a ministerial statement cannot compare, contrast or critique a previous government's approach to a matter. The use of a pejorative statement in itself is not out of order in the context of a ministerial statement. Like all words, the statement must be viewed within the context of a ministerial statement. A pejorative statement may still be in order within the context of what is being said. Manager of Opposition Business, I have heard your point of order. There is no point of order and I will call the minister to continue.

Mr POWELL: Over that decade of decline it was all talk, no action. However, on this side of the House we are about practical environmental outcomes. We empower communities because no-one knows their local environment better than the people who live in it. Earlier this month we gave the green light to the inaugural round of our flagship grassroots environmental grants. That is \$800,000 going directly to local groups, volunteers and organisations restoring habitats, revegetating land and upgrading facilities.

Queenslanders care deeply about the Great Barrier Reef and so do we. That is why the Crisafulli government's \$2 million Reef Assist program is supporting 11 Indigenous organisations to lead hands-on on-country projects that restore reef health. These grants do not just protect the environment; they build skills, create jobs and empower traditional owners to lead the way.

Based in the member for Mulgrave's electorate, we have delivered a pilot junior ranger program to help young Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji people lead practical local conservation. For local catchment groups across Queensland we recently announced the 16 recipients of our grants for litter and marine debris clean-up and prevention. More than \$460,000 will help local communities ramp up their efforts to protect local waterways and ecosystems.

In the member for Rockhampton's community we are supporting Capricornia catchments to keep litter out of Moores Creek by running clean-ups and workshops, installing litter baskets and butt ballot boxes, and putting up educational signage. It is a local investment that will make a big difference.

As Minister for Science and Innovation, I know the power of research in driving better outcomes. That is why we are investing up to \$150,000 per project through our threatened species research grants, turning cutting-edge science into real-world conservation, because smart research means stronger results.

I also want to briefly note the suspicious fire that has occurred in Burleigh Head National Park overnight. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service who are out there right now conducting an inspection to ascertain any damage that has occurred as well as working to reopen the tracks as quickly as possible. Burleigh Head National Park is a cherished icon of the Gold Coast. Thanks to the advocacy of the member for Burleigh, we are delivering \$630,000 to support community-led conservation efforts with ongoing funding available for volunteer groups across the park.

After Labor's decade of decline the Crisafulli government is unashamedly delivering for our environment. We will keep backing in our grassroots volunteers, traditional owners and scientific researchers to help us protect our pristine natural environment because, while the Leader of the Opposition might be a threatened species beyond saving, the Crisafulli government is focused on protecting the natural environment Queenslanders love and we are doing it with action, not empty words.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Comments by Member for Morayfield



Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.44 pm): I rise to make a personal explanation. On 29 May 2025 I tabled a response to question on notice 367 of this year asked by the member for Morayfield about upgrades to Morayfield Road. The member for Morayfield subsequently wrote to Mr Speaker alleging that in my response to that question I deliberately misled the House. Given this allegation from the member for Morayfield, I would like to provide some important context and facts to clarify the response I provided.

The question asked about planning to date, estimated completion timelines and milestones for planning, community consultation and funding commitments towards the Morayfield Road, Aquatic Centre Drive to Graham Road project, which is listed in QTRIP. My answer noted that successive former Labor governments failed residents of Morayfield when they did not complete this upgrade despite originally going out to community consultation in 2006. That original project and planning work was for the duplication of Morayfield Road between the Bruce Highway and Gaffield Street, which represents most of Morayfield Road. This was split into two parts, with part A being from Gaffield Street to Graham Road and part B being from Graham Road to the Bruce Highway, which is just past Aquatic Centre Drive.

I am advised that under the former Labor government planning for part B did not proceed at that time as a result of a cost blowout on part A. While construction continued on that first component with a duplication upgrade between Gaffield Street and Graham Road, revisiting the planning for part B did not make it onto the former government's priority list until QTRIP 2022-23 with the first funds for planning not flowing until financial year 2024.

As I advised in my response to the question on notice, the Crisafulli government will take a considered, methodical and disciplined approach to the upgrade and maintenance of Queensland's state controlled road network. I want to advise the House that the planning for the duplication of Morayfield Road between Graham Road and Aquatic Centre Drive is ongoing and I look forward to sharing the outcomes of this once it is completed.

NOTICE OF MOTION

No Confidence in Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.47 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House expresses no confidence in the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 3.47 pm.

Coal Royalties



Mr MILES (2.47 pm): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier commit today to a 10-year coal royalty freeze to provide investment certainty for employers like BHP?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I sincerely want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question because the question highlights what was written in a statement today, and that is what happens when governments do not provide certainty and what happens when governments do not treat industries with respect. The question has solicited laughter because those opposite sought to create a schism during the election campaign where the industry was used as a political whipping boy and the industry was treated with such disdain.

On my recent trip to Japan I had the opportunity to address a clean coal conference. At that venue 12 months previously a speaker stood up in that room full of 1,200 investors and said, 'Don't invest in Queensland because there's a government that doesn't believe in you.' That was the case under those opposite. Today I want people to unpack what that means, and I want people to unpack what that means to those 750 people who have to go home tonight and tell their families what that looks like.

I want those opposite to understand that I had an opportunity to stand in that same room and look those people in the eye and say, 'Queensland is open for business.' One of the first things I was able to do was honour an agreement where another company was treated with complete disdain. They were used ahead of the 2020 election campaign, and that company is Adani. To the credit of that company, it has stayed in Queensland and it is now, on the back of this government, investing. That investment will create 600 jobs.

I want to make a couple of points. During the election campaign the member for Woodridge conducted himself in a vile manner on this topic—he really did—and on the back of that it demonised those—

Mr DICK: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock, please.

Mr DICK: I take personal offence at those words and I ask the Premier to withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Premier, the member has taken personal offence. Would you withdraw?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. During the election campaign the member for Woodridge sought to demonise the industry, and in the process he undermined it. I say to those opposite—

Mr DICK: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock, please.

Mr DICK: In terms of the defamatory misrepresentation from the Premier—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, do you have a point of order?

Mr DICK: I take personal offence at it and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Premier, the member has taken personal offence. Would you withdraw?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am going to take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers; thank you very much.

Ms Boyd: I didn't open my mouth.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Members on my left!

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Acting Speaker, I apologise to the member for Pine Rivers if it was not the member for Pine Rivers. However, I take the interjection. Those royalty regimes are locked in and are not changing. What is changing is a government that backs the industry and believes in the industry and will provide the stability for it to invest in Queensland.

Hospitals, Ramping

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Crisafulli LNP government's health crisis has caused a record ramping rate of 47—

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Members on my right! Members on my right, cease your noise, please. I lost the Leader of the Opposition there for a moment. Would you start your question again, please?

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Health. The Crisafulli LNP government's health crisis has caused a record ramping rate of 47.8 per cent—of patients ramped longer than the recommended time. This resulted in Boonah resident Ross Coco waiting three hours for an ambulance in one of the worst experiences of his life. Why has ramping increased under the Crisafulli government when the Premier promised it would go down?

Mr NICHOLLS: Like the Premier, I really want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question because, when it comes to Queensland's health crisis, the Leader of the Opposition has been front and centre—front and centre of driving the increase in the ramping crisis, the increase in the elective surgery crisis and the increase in the long-wait crisis. Labor minister after Labor minister, in a decade of decline, presided over Queensland's health crisis. Let us go through the history of it.

In 2015, when the member for Woodridge became the health minister, ramping had been reduced under the LNP government to 15 per cent. When those opposite left office a decade later, after three failed health ministers, what was it? It was at 46 per cent—a more than 200 per cent increase. What had happened? In that period the elective surgery waitlist had gone from 35,000 to over 64½ thousand. What did the member for Waterford promise? The member for Waterford had promised that she would reduce the ramping rate to 28 per cent within 12 months, and what did it do? It went up! She also promised—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members on my left, that level of volume did not enable me to hear the member for Clayfield, which is hard to believe because the member for Clayfield is quite easy to hear most times.

Mr NICHOLLS: What did the member for Waterford do? She promised to reduce the long-wait list to 248,905 in 12 months. What did she leave it at? Some 287,000! On every metric, on every promise, those opposite broke their promises and they failed to deliver. When it comes to—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: This is important.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Those opposite may laugh about it. They laughed about it for 10 years. They presided over the worst decline people have seen in our health services. More importantly, what did they say to the families of people like Wayne Irving, who died on the ramp? What did they say to Oliva Keating, who had 11 abdominal surgeries? What did they say to the mothers who lost three children in Mackay? They have never apologised for it; they never fixed it. They have a hide asking questions in here.

(Time expired)

Wage Theft

Ms MORTON: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier advise the House on the importance of parties meeting their financial obligations in wage theft cases, and is he aware of any examples of where obligations have not been met?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Caloundra for the question. I might start by saying how refreshing it is to have a neighbouring MP delivering for the people of Caloundra—in 10 months, with a Bribie Island bridge review and a Caloundra congestion-busting program easing congestion. It is fantastic to work with the member for Caloundra and see all of the great things she is delivering.

The member asked about financial obligations. I am afraid to advise the House that we have come into possession of information that would indicate that Jason Hunt, the former member for Caloundra—from the Labor left, in the opposition leader's faction, I might add—has an unpaid Australia Post bill of \$12,000. That is how much the former member for Caloundra, Jason Hunt, owes to the posties in Australia Post.

Mr MILES: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, what is your point of order?

Mr MILES: The former member for Caloundra settled that bill with his own personal funds some time ago.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr MILES: That is my point of order.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Member for Murrumbidgee, you have been here long enough to know that that is not a valid point of order. There is no point of order. The minister has the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Acting Speaker, I—

Mr MILES: I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly rising. The member for Kawana is misleading the House. That bill was settled by the former member for Caloundra with his own funds.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Murrumbidgee, thank you for rising to your feet again. There is a process for writing to the Speaker if you consider a member has misled the House deliberately and I encourage you to use that process if you so choose.

Mr BLEIJIE: The point of order by the opposition leader raises so many more questions. I wonder if it was paid after the media contacted the former member for Caloundra today. This bill is 12 months old and this statement was issued to the member for Caloundra's office only last month—only a couple of weeks ago. I would say that the member for Caloundra's office has done the right thing in that it has continually forwarded the contact details from Australia Post to the appropriate authority.

It begs the question: when did the opposition leader know that his former member did not pay his \$12,000 bill? Why did the opposition leader not disclose this about the former member for Caloundra to the people of Queensland? If the opposition leader knew that the former member for Caloundra did not discharge his obligations to pay his bills, when did he know? When did he find out? Was it the unions that paid the bill? Was it the Labor Party that paid the bill? Who paid the bill?

The opposition leader has just disclosed that he knew about the matter. His point of order shows that he is just not up to the job. This statement shows that for 12 months Australia Post was chasing the former member for Caloundra for \$12,000. When was it paid? If, as the opposition leader has just indicated, it has all been fixed up; when? I table a copy of the bill.

Tabled paper: Australia Post statement, dated 3 August 2025, addressed to Office of Jason Hunt MP [1260].

We know that the member for Caloundra is parading around still telling people he is the member for Caloundra. I table a copy of his Instagram post showing 'Jason Hunt MP'. He is not an MP. I table that.

Tabled paper: Extract from social media, undated, featuring a post by the former member for Caloundra, Mr Jason Hunt [1261].

It is an offence to impersonate being a member of parliament. The member for Caloundra has a complete lack of judgement. The opposition leader has so many more questions to answer. When did he know his former Labor colleague, Jason Hunt, had not paid a 12-month-old bill?

(Time expired)

Members of Parliament, Integrity

Mr DICK: My question is to the Premier. I table the electorate and communication allowance acquittals for the former members for Gympie, Callide and Hinchinbrook showing repayments of \$9,000, \$600 and \$12,000 respectively. Can the Premier explain how this is any different to the matter just raised?

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents regarding electorate allowance acquittals provided by the former member for Gympie, Mr David Gibson, the former member for Callide, Mr Colin Boyce, and the former member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Andrew Cripps [1262].

Honourable members interjected.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, there was no need for that ruckus. Leader of the House, did you have a point of order?

Dr ROWAN: My point of order was in relation to portfolio matters. I believe those matters would be—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members on my left. The Leader of the House has not finished making his point of order yet.

Dr ROWAN: They are matters for the Clerk and the Parliamentary Service and I ask you to consider that.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you. I will seek some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for McConnel, member for Woodridge, member for Pine Rivers, Premier and Deputy Premier! I am seeking advice. I call the Premier.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for Woodridge for the question and can I start by confirming something: that is the first time I have ever heard of it, unlike the bloke sitting beside him who, for nearly 12 months, ran a protection racket for someone. He stood up today and confirmed in this House that he knew what was going on.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members on my left, your Manager of Opposition Business is seeking to make a point of order and all I can hear is you.

Mr de BRENNI: I draw your attention to the unparliamentary language used by the Premier and I ask you to ask him to withdraw that.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will seek some advice.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am happy to withdraw in the interests of time. I will say to the honourable member that these matters are something that have never been raised with me and if they had and there was something inappropriate I would have taken action. What I would not have done is sit on the information and then stand up and make a point of order that exposes that he does not have what it takes. The Leader of the Opposition lacks the intellectual rigour and the intestinal fortitude to do his job. It is on display this week. It was on display when the two senior members of the neighbouring factions had to stand up and take a point of order and say that they withdrew because he said something inappropriate.

It is on display when he cannot answer. It is on display when he giggles because he gets all worked up. All I say to those opposite is if there is anything untoward of course something should occur, which is why the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has raised something very serious. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition's question has highlighted what I believe is a lack of leadership of the person sitting beside him.

This is the first I have ever heard of it—the first time I have ever heard of it and I heard of it via the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. What the Deputy Premier has said is clearly there was something untoward, a payment that was not made and the opposition leader knew about it. He stood up today in this House and said he knew about it. Why would he have known? Why would he not have acted? Why would he not have demanded taxpayer money be paid back? There are more questions that have been raised by somebody who stood up on a point of order.

The Leader of the Opposition is not up to the job. They all know it. The entire front bench over there knows it. The backbench have their heads down and know it. He is not up to the job. He makes bad decisions. He stands up impulsively. He giggles when he is nervous and he says things that show he is not up to the job. Right now he needs to say when Jason Hunt told him, why he did not act, whether he believes it was inappropriate to carry it and whether the Leader of the Opposition will demand the former member not run at the next election.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Before I call the next question, members to my left, this is the first time I have chaired question time so I am not used to the level of noise and whether it is inappropriate or not, but I am forming the view that there is too much noise emanating from the left. I am issuing a general caution to all of you. The level of noise has been excessive. I would ask you to remain orderly throughout all stages of question time.

Members of Parliament, Integrity

Mr HUNT: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Can the Attorney outline why it is critical to act with integrity and accountability when it comes to Queensland taxpayers' money and can the Attorney expand on any instances where these obligations were not met?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Acting Speaker, can I quickly say that it was wonderful to be with you at Beaudesert, where we opened the Crisafulli government's new courthouse. The member for Nicklin asks a very important question. The record of those on the Sunshine Coast since the Crisafulli government has been in is exemplary. I give credit to the new member for Caloundra. When it comes to the former member for Caloundra, we have heard in the House today shocking allegations of him not paying his \$12,000 Australia Post bill for over 12 months. It does beg the question why someone from the Labor Party would again not respect taxpayers' money. We have just seen a decade of maladministration, wasting Queenslanders' money each and every day, but now we hear that the Leader of the Opposition cannot even apologise for the former member for Caloundra, Jason Hunt, who actually thinks, going by his Instagram, he is still the member for Caloundra. According to the Labor Party, they have somehow apparently paid this bill, but Jason Hunt has still not paid it, as far as we know.

Ms Fentiman: He paid it!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. The member for Waterford just pointed to the Leader of the Opposition and said, 'He paid it.' Of course he has paid it. Does the Leader of the Opposition also pay his rates? 'Hang on, Jason Hunt's rego is due. Quick, I'm going to pay it.' Come on, Leader of the Opposition, Jason Hunt wants to buy a few more barbecues. Leader of the Opposition, we have been watching and Jason Hunt has been giving out your barbecues to schools. Let us hope they are not repossessed. Goodness me! Seriously, who is paying for them? Is it the Labor Party or is it the Leader of the Opposition who is paying Jason Hunt's bills? Talk about a protection racket!

Ms GRACE: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on the unparliamentary language used by the Attorney-General. 'Protection racket' was said.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I did not hear you say anything unparliamentary, but if you withdraw—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. Let us call it a cover-up or whatever it is that the Leader of the Opposition is doing, confirmed by the member for Waterford, who just dobbed him in. We know that the member for Woodridge wrote the Leader of the Opposition's first question, but I never thought I would see the member for Waterford so quickly throw the Leader of the Opposition under the bus. I thought it was only the member for Gaven who was after the Leader of the Opposition. Seriously, it is come in spinner in question time today.

(Time expired)

Hospitals, Ramping

Mr BAILEY: My question is to the Minister for Health. Recent media reports stated that the state government has blamed protracted industrial action by nurses and midwives in relation to the highest ever recorded level of ramping in Queensland's history of 47.8 per cent. Why is Minister Nicholls blaming our hardworking nurses and health workers for the LNP's ambulance ramping crisis?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Miller for his question because it gives me a great opportunity to thank our hardworking nurses and midwives for the great job they do. I particularly thank the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, with whom we have engaged constructively since coming to office. In fact, theirs was one of the earliest meetings that I had. As a result of that constructive and good relationship, we have been able to secure a new three-year enterprise bargaining agreement that delivers nation-leading wages and conditions for our hardworking nurses and midwives. It is a bargain that has been supported by more than 70 per cent of the vote of the union and it will go out to a ballot to all of our hardworking employed nurses and midwives in the next few weeks. I am absolutely certain that the Crisafulli government will be delivering a Christmas present to all of those nurses and midwives when they vote in favour of that agreement, which has in-principle agreement from the union. We will be delivering for the nurses and midwives of Queensland.

We have delivered that bargain faster than those on the other side were able to do. We have reached an agreement faster than they were able to do and, as Sarah Beaman says, it is the best agreement in a decade, since the last government.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Given all of the remarks made by the Minister for Health, my point of order is on relevance. Why did he then blame those nurses and doctors for ramping?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order on relevance. I have been listening to the Minister for Health's answer in relation to the wage negotiations and the question related to industrial action and negotiations. I find the minister is being relevant. He has one minute and 11 seconds remaining to round out his answer.

Mr NICHOLLS: One can only guess how this burns the member for Miller. He cannot stand it that we are actually able to reach agreement with those people who are represented by industrial organisations and he has not been given a break. He thinks he deserves the support of the union movement while we are working hard to get the support of our nurses and our midwives. It does not end there. Not only do we have an agreement for our 73,000 nurses and midwives; we also have an in-principle agreement with our 15,000 employed medical officers, and we did that in less than a month.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Miller, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr NICHOLLS: We now have 72,000 members of industrial organisations with in-principle agreements with the Crisafulli LNP government on wages and conditions for three years, knocked off and sorted out within nine months of coming to office. They will all get Christmas bonuses. They will all have better terms and conditions. We value their hard work in delivering the services that Queenslanders need.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Miller, you are warned under the standing orders.

Members of Parliament, Integrity

Miss DOOLAN: My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. Can the minister detail how respect for taxpayers' money is a cornerstone of the Crisafulli LNP government's approach, and can the minister outline any instances where this respect has not been shown?

An opposition member interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Aspley. One of the members on my left interrupted the member while she was asking her question.

Mr Bleijie: It was the opposition leader.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Murrumba, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Kawana, you too are warned under the standing orders. Member for Pumicestone, please ask your question again. We will hear the question in silence.

Miss DOOLAN: My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. Can the minister detail how respect for taxpayers' money is a cornerstone of the Crisafulli LNP government's approach, and can the minister outline any instances where this respect has not been shown?

Ms BATES: What a breath of fresh air the member for Pumicestone is and has been for her community since she was elected to this place. She is an excellent advocate for the Pumicestone electorate.

The member asked me about respect for the hard-earned money of Queensland taxpayers, which is something that the Crisafulli LNP government is committed to restoring after a decade of decline under those opposite. We know that the members for Woodridge, Murrumba and Waterford hid their budget black holes and blowouts in Queensland. While the fish rots from the head, it seems to have infected those in their midst, too, demonstrating an abysmal lack of fiscal responsibility and personal accountability. Today we heard about the failure of Mr Jason Hunt, the former Labor member for Caloundra, to pay some \$12,000 to Australia Post from his time in office. That is not a small oversight. Now we know from the Leader of the Opposition that he knew all the time. Who paid the bill? When was it paid? Did the member for Murrumba pay for it? Did the Labor Party pay for it? Did the CFMEU pay for it? Who is funding Jason Hunt?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock, please. Member for McConnel and member for Woodridge, you are both very close to being warned. I could not hear the minister due to the noise from the left.

Ms BATES: I wonder if the former member for Caloundra actually acquitted the \$12,000 on his electorate allowance. If he did not, the Leader of the Opposition has even more questions to answer. If we asked locals in Caloundra if they have ever forgotten a \$12,000 invoice, I think the answer would be a resounding no. The failure of Jason Hunt to pay his tab, despite the significant resources given to him by taxpayers as a member of parliament, demonstrates a staggering lack of respect for taxpayers' hard-earned money. That poor behaviour is an affront to this place and the trust afforded to members of parliament. When businesses in our communities provide goods or services to a member of parliament, they should have the confidence that they will pay their bills. That is a bare minimum.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock, please.

Dr ROWAN: It has been brought to my attention that the Leader of the Opposition is interjecting across the chamber. He is already on a warning. I ask you to consider that matter.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. I was in fact listening to the minister's response. However, I remind all members who are on a warning—the members for Miller, Murrumba and Kawana—that no interjections are to be made while you are on a warning.

Mr CRANDON: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the point of order being taken. The clock ran down from about 39 seconds to 22 seconds.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Coomera. I did ask for the clock to be paused. The Clerk will take care of that matter. Thank you for your point of order. There is no point of order.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Woodridge. Members for Woodridge, Coomera and Callide, you are warned under the standing orders. Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, please continue your response.

Ms BATES: This whole saga is made all the more incredible by the fact that Jason still fancies himself as the member for Caloundra. Despite the people of Caloundra showing Labor the door, Jason is still posting on his former MP Facebook page. What is he posting? He has posted about Orgasm Day. I am pretty sure people in Caloundra would like to know that he paid his bill. This is a test of leadership yet again for the member for Murrumba. We know that the member for Stafford is sitting there and making every mistake he possibly can. He will be gone before Christmas.

Tabled paper: Extract from social media, undated, featuring a post by Jason Hunt around Caloundra, celebrating national orgasm day [\[1263\]](#).

(Time expired)

Drugs, Testing

Mr JKELLY: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Queensland Police Service stated on 30 August—

Drug checking services do not impact normal policing activity, and both can operate in parallel to keep the community safe.

Will the minister rule out introducing legislation or amendments this week to ban and prevent pill testing in Queensland?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question. The member for Greenslopes will know that it has been the policy of the government since prior to the election to not support pill testing or drug checking services, either public or private. We made that position abundantly clear well before the election. We made that position abundantly clear during the election. We made that position abundantly clear after the election. We continue to make that position abundantly clear. The Premier has made that position abundantly clear. The Deputy Premier has made that position abundantly clear. I have made that position abundantly clear.

I thought it would be interesting to see who else has made that position abundantly clear. I thought members on the other side might like to know who else has made their opposition to pill checking abundantly clear. I thought I would look at other jurisdictions in Australia. I thought we would look at our friends over in Western Australia—the Cook Labor government. In January 2024 a government spokesman confirmed that ‘Western Australia will not be changing its position’. They said—

The Cook Government has no plans to introduce pill testing in Western Australia at this time.

It was a position reinforced by government members in *Hansard* in March 2024. I thought I would look around a little further. Western Australia is far away. I know those opposite have difficulty looking too far over the horizon. Let’s look a little closer. I thought perhaps we should have a look at South Australia. We had a health ministers meeting in Perth only last Friday, so I took the opportunity to look at South Australia. Chris Picton is the health minister, and the former health minister, the member for Waterford, would have sat in on health ministers meetings with him. She could have asked him what his view was. In July 2022 health minister Chris Picton ‘... ruled out pursuing such a scheme. SA Labor was consistent before the election in not supporting pill testing as part of our policy.’ What did Minister Picton say in August 2025? Health minister Chris Picton told *InDaily*—

The Malinauskas government does not support the introduction of pill testing in South Australia ...

Neither does the Northern Territory, Tasmania nor Queensland. We do not support drug dealers. There is no safe way to take drugs. Only the Labor Party backs drug dealers in this House.

Maryborough, Community Safety

Mr BAROUNIS: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Can the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering action on the antisocial behaviour impacting local businesses in Maryborough, which have been crying out for action after a decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for Maryborough not just for the question but for the way in which he has engaged in this issue. I can see the Minister for Small and Family Business nodding—he has been there with him on the ground, as have many of our other colleagues.

Maryborough is a proud city. It is a great city. Architecturally, it is one of the best cities in the nation. At the moment, that beautiful CBD is being held hostage by a small, aggressive group engaging in antisocial behaviour. The member has advocated very strongly for action, and we are acting and we intend to deliver for that community. As I said in my ministerial statement, these problems certainly are complex, but it does not mean you can put your hands up and say that you cannot do anything about it. We are bringing together all the resources, everything from state government agencies to non-government organisations, community groups and small and family business who are living with it every day.

I say to the small and family businesses in the CBD of Maryborough: we are really sorry for what you have been through in recent years. It continued to get worse because they were not listened to by the former government or the former member. They are being listened to by us, and the current member for Maryborough, Mr Barounis, has taken up the fight in a big way. I want that community to know that we understand and feel what they are going through and we intend to take action.

The member asked about the decade of decline. There is a mark in time when this issue became particularly bad: April 2023. I can tell the House what happened in April 2023: the former government watered down the drug laws. When I went there and spoke with those small and family business owners, they told me they can drop a pin on the date things went to the next level. We are not dealing with a cohort who are engaging in public drunkenness. We are not dealing with a cohort who are homeless. We are not dealing with a cohort who have specific complications. In the case of Maryborough, we are dealing with a group who are drug dependent, and it has worsened. The irony of this question being asked straight after a question about rolling out the welcome mat when it comes to drugs is not lost on me, and it is not lost on the members in this House who believe in law and order.

I say to the people of Maryborough: we are on your side. We choose small and family business owners over drug dealers. We choose community safety over rolling out the welcome mat. We choose action and delivery over excuses and pontification, which is what they have had from those opposite. I say to the member for Maryborough: thank you for raising it and thank you for your advocacy. To the community of Maryborough, I say: things will never be perfect in a complex society, but they should be so much better than how Labor left them.

Queensland Health, Funding

Ms MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for Health. David Rosengren was appointed director-general of Queensland Health on 1 November last year. On what date did the minister make it clear to the director-general that there would be absolutely no cuts to Queensland Health, as the minister promised Queenslanders?

Mr NICHOLLS: Firstly, I acknowledge the appointment of Dr David Rosengren as director-general. One of the commitments we made in opposition was that we would put clinicians back in charge of the health department, and who better to be director-general of Queensland Health than a 30-year emergency medicine doctor who has spent his life practising and working in some of the busiest emergency departments in the country, a doctor who was commissioned by South Australia to help them address their ramping issues, a doctor who was chair of the Queensland Clinical Senate—someone who actually saves lives, someone who knows what it is like when an ambulance turns up and someone is dying in front of them.

That is what Dr David Rosengren does: he saves lives and he has also made a commitment to the better public administration of health in Queensland. I am very proud to be working with Dr David Rosengren to deliver the health outcomes that Queenslanders need. He is a doctor who has worked for both sides of politics. He was also the chief operating officer for Queensland Health under the former Labor government. That is what Dr David Rosengren has done. As a chief operating officer, he knows how money is spent.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member for Jordan's question was about the date upon which the minister made it clear to the director-general that there would be no cuts. I ask the minister be drawn back to a relevant answer to the question.

Dr ROWAN: In relation to the point of order of the Manager of Opposition Business, the minister is being relevant and responsive to the question as asked and there was a clear reference to the director-general. He is providing a comprehensive response.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take some advice on these points of order. Thank you, members, for your points of order. Manager of Opposition Business, I acknowledge your point of order around the date. The minister is exploring the context around the services provided by Queensland Health for which the director-general is responsible. The minister has one minute and 26 seconds to answer the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: Let us not, as those opposite are trying to do, denigrate the great work of a clinician who has dedicated his life to serving the people of Queensland. Let us not denigrate either those in the executive leadership of Queensland Health or those who work in our hospitals for the great work that they do in saving lives every day. Those opposite seek to pull the rug out from underneath them and denigrate their hard work and commitment by raising these issues.

When it comes to the budget and the spending of the Department of Health, let me say, as I always do, that every cent in the Queensland Health budget gets spent. This year, 10.2 per cent more than they allocated in the Queensland Health budget last year will be spent—a record budget of \$33.2 billion. That includes fixing up the \$12 billion black hole that we were bequeathed by those opposite.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is almost no time left for the minister to answer the question about the date upon which he says he provided this advice. My point of order is on relevance. I would ask you to draw him back to a relevant answer in respect of the date.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Minister for Health, I consider you are being relevant. You have 19 seconds left.

Mr NICHOLLS: It includes the \$12 billion black hole we were bequeathed by those opposite. It includes the underfunded, failed capacity expansion program. Dr David Rosengren knows that he needs to spend money effectively and efficiently. He needs neither me, the opposition nor anyone to tell him how to spend the Queensland Health budget.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

Mr STEVENS: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the progress the Crisafulli government is making towards delivering world-class venues ahead of the 2032 Olympic and the Paralympic Games, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for the question. I was slightly distracted as I am still trying to get my head around the previous responses from the opposition leader with respect to the former member for Caloundra, Jason Hunt. I might get to that in a minute and link it to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: 'Relevance' has a broad definition. The Gold Coast and the members on the Gold Coast are going to benefit greatly from the games in 2032. Whether it is through the Games On! program delivered by the Minister for Sport, Tim Mander, or through infrastructure like the new hockey arena being built by the Gold Coast City council, the land to be gifted—

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The arts and culture minister—everyone wants an acknowledgement. You are all doing a wonderful job—congratulations. The Gold Coast is benefiting from the Crisafulli government and the investment. We have sorted out the mess of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

An opposition member: You fixed it.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. We fixed the mess. To fix a mess there had to be a mess to fix, and yes there was. It was a big mess. I love your interjection. I take it because we fixed it as a government.

We announced today that Arup is now developing the master plan for Victoria Park, the National Aquatic Centre and the athletes village. Queenslanders are now excited about not only the plan for the games but also its delivery. As I said yesterday, so many people are congratulating us.

A government member: Arup the Builder.

Mr BLEIJIE: No, it is Bleijie the Builder. We have the Labour government in the UK congratulating us. We have members writing to us and congratulating us. I received a letter from a member of parliament recently. I thank the member for this letter. It reads—

Dear Mr Bleijie

Firstly, allow me to extend my congratulations on the successful establishment of the intergovernmental agreement for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is a significant milestone and a welcome investment in Queensland's future. As you are aware, the games present not only a global stage for athletes but also a transformative opportunity for our state's infrastructure and long-term economic development.

I am confused, because I know the opposition has been talking about colours of government. I wanted to thank the LNP member for writing to me about this, but then I saw that the letterhead was red. I do not like red. I do want to thank the member for Ipswich West, Wendy Bourne, for endorsing our 2032 Delivery Plan. It is not endorsed by the opposition leader and it is not endorsed by the member for McConnel, but there are some Labor MPs who see that the 2032 Delivery Plan will deliver for the people of Ipswich and all of Queensland.

(Time expired)

Premier and Minister for Veterans

Ms ENOCH: My question is to the Premier. The Premier has raised a \$12,000 bill paid late when he failed to pay \$3 million to businesses. Will the Premier explain who paid the \$200,000 bill for insolvent trading claims?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the question from the member for Algeester. There was a clear imputation within the question. I would ask that that be considered and that you consider ruling the question out of order on that basis.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will seek some advice. I have heard the Leader of the House's point of order. Neither the Clerk at the table nor I clearly heard the question being asked, although I did hear part of it which would lead me to believe that the Leader of the House's point of order may have some validity. However, I am going to ask the member to restate the question so that I can hear it fully and then I will make a ruling on the point of order.

Ms ENOCH: My question is to the Premier. The Premier has raised a \$12,000 bill paid late. Will the Premier explain who paid the \$200,000 bill for insolvent trading claims?

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Acting Speaker. You asked the honourable member to restate the question. She has reworded the question.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will seek some advice about that and also about the Leader of the House's point of order.

Ms ENOCH: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Acting Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Algester, thank you for your question. I did hear it very clearly the second time. I am going to rule that question out of order as it does not relate to the Premier's portfolio responsibilities. In relation to the point of order raised by the member for Kawana—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Members on my left! Member for Logan, thank you for putting your hand up. You are warned under the standing orders. In relation to the point of order raised by the Deputy Premier, if there is a matter of privilege you wish to raise with the Speaker about a recasting of the question, you can do that in writing.

Ms ENOCH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Acting Speaker. I do wish to express that I misheard what you had said and therefore rephrased the question. That is why I raise a point of order to happily state the full question again if that is what is required. My apologies to you, Mr Acting Speaker, and my apologies to the House.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Algester. I have ruled the question out of order and given advice to other members about their various points of orders and made rulings as well.

Sport Infrastructure

Mrs KIRKLAND: My question is to the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Can the minister update the House on the Crisafulli LNP government's delivery of legacy sporting infrastructure, and is the minister aware of any approaches that did not deliver during a decade of decline?

Mr MANDER: I can hardly contain my excitement. The question comes from the member for Rockhampton and I would have to say that I think she has been the most effective member for Rockhampton in 100 years, as well as the other members from Central Queensland—the member for Mirani and the member for Keppel. Their advocacy for their local area has been absolutely outstanding. There is no greater example of that advocacy than the Browne Park project that has been going on for some time—the home of Rugby League in Central Queensland. It is a park that I have refereed in myself on one of the very few times that I was dropped from the NRL and I was banned to the suburbs. I can tell you from personal experience that it did need an upgrade.

The member asked me about approaches that did not deliver. There is an example in this particular project, and I want to give members a history lesson about this project. In 2020, the former Labor government committed \$25 million to the project during that election, and that barely scratched the surface of what was needed. Haven't we heard that before! It had to be topped up by a further \$29 million in 2022 and a further \$1.9 million in 2024. It was blowout after blowout after blowout.

Since the member for Rockhampton became a member, she noticed—obviously being involved in the community it came to her attention and therefore came to my attention—that this project was not going to deliver what it was first purposed for, and that was to bring high-level elite sport to Rockhampton, particularly an NRL game. What we discovered was that we needed another \$3½ million.

We needed another \$3½ million after all of these other blowouts because the Labor government missed out on a few essential requirements that were needed to bring an NRL game to Rockhampton. One of those things was a scoreboard. You need to have a scoreboard so you can follow the game and know what the score is and the referee knows how much time is left in the game. That is No. 1. No. 2 was that we did not have broadcast standard lights. We could not have an NRL game at night because they did not allow for broadcast standard lights. That is pretty important for the NRL.

Mr Crisafulli: Anything else?

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the Premier. There is one more thing they forgot. They forgot the turf for the playing surface! All we had was dirt. After all the tracks have gone over the ground, all we would be left with is hard dirt—no playing surface. I thank the member for Rockhampton for bringing that to my attention. I thank the Treasurer for giving that extra money. Only the LNP Crisafulli government delivers on our commitments.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, I had called the House to order. You are warned under the standing orders.

Queensland Museum, Sponsorship

Mr BERKMAN: My question today is to the Minister for Education and the Arts. The minister has been sent legal advice that the Queensland Museum's partnerships with fossil fuel companies, including the Future Makers program sponsored by Shell, are inconsistent with its legislated obligations to lead the preservation of Queensland's cultural and natural heritage. Given the evidence that fossil fuel expansion will destroy the Great Barrier Reef, what is the minister's response to that advice?

Mr LANGBROEK: I thank the honourable member for the question. I am not aware of such correspondence. In the absence of such correspondence, it is very hard for me to comment about something I have not seen. If the member has a copy of such correspondence, I would be happy to consider it, but I note that he did not table it.

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take the opportunity to table both the correspondence and the advice that the minister has just referred to.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, a point of order is not the opportunity to table documents. I will give the call to the Minister for the Arts.

Mr LANGBROEK: When it comes to the Queensland Museum and in fact all of the various not-for-profit organisations under my jurisdiction as Minister for the Arts, whether it is the Museum or the Art Gallery or the Symphony Orchestra, it is really important that we seek advice about potential benefactors—people who make donations to our various organisations—and beneficiaries. What we are not inclined to do, especially without evidence that I can refer to, is to draw some specious line between someone being a benefactor and their recommendations that affect an organisation that is doing a completely different thing in terms of what is in the museum.

I am happy to consider the information when I receive it. However, when it comes to issues that the member is asking me about, I think it is a long bow to draw between what is being suggested in terms of what the member has asked in his question and then asking me as the minister responsible to make some policy decision based on a letter that I have not seen and to then say that in some of our institutions we would be looking at the issues he is raising and that we are going to make policy decisions based on that.

We have a more considered way of looking at issues, rather than looking at a letter that has been written by someone who is an advocate for a particular issue and then saying on the strength of that recommendation that we should be doing that at the museum or at any of our other institutions. I heard the question once. To do exactly what it is that he is suggesting we do is really drawing a long bow. I am happy to consider it. I am happy to come back and advise the House in a more formal way. I just cannot do it in the form in which it has been asked.

Townsville, Youth Crime

Mr BAILLIE: My question is for the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering Gold Standard Early Intervention services in communities like Townsville, and is the minister aware of any other policies that saw youth crime skyrocket during a decade of decline?


Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Townsville, well done, but the time for question time has expired.

PENALTIES AND SENTENCES (SEXUAL OFFENCES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 16 September (see p. 2778), on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.48 pm): I rise to speak on the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The Labor opposition supports meaningful reform to better protect victims and survivors of sexual assault and rape. However, we cannot stand by without pushing for this bill to deliver for victims sooner rather than later.

We support reforms that strengthen protections for victim-survivors. We support measures that ensure courts recognise the seriousness of these offences and the serious harm they cause, but this LNP government continues to put politics before victims at every turn. Despite campaigning on a platform of putting victims first, this LNP government has done quite the opposite when it comes to victims of sexual offences. The LNP government is in fact doing the opposite of a victim-centric approach by waiting and not prioritising victims' safety, dignity and wellbeing. This bill demonstrates missed opportunities and further delay by this government.

In 2023 the former Labor attorney-general, the member for Waterford, tasked the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council with reviewing how sexual assault and rape offences are sentenced in Queensland. For 18 months QSAC conducted extensive consultation with survivors, legal experts, frontline workers and our broader community. Over this period we listened to the lived experiences of victims and survivors, using their stories to directly inform decision-making.

In December last year QSAC delivered their report *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect* to the Attorney-General. It contained 28 detailed recommendations for reform. At this point the LNP government had the opportunity to put victims' needs first and apply these recommendations promptly. Instead, for nearly six months they collected dust on the Attorney-General's desk. Coincidentally, it was not until May—at the same time Labor raised alarm bells—that the government began to take action by introducing this bill. That is why when the bill was introduced Labor immediately wrote to the Attorney-General offering bipartisan support to deliver these amendments sooner rather than later for victim-survivors by declaring the bill urgent and passing it in the same sitting week. That approach was rejected by the government.

The pattern we have seen from this government continues; that is, they sit on their hands until political pressure forces them to take action. We have offered bipartisan cooperation to deliver outcomes faster for victims but they have chosen not to take that seriously. Victims need leadership, not political games. They have faced nine months of delay, during which time the government held press conferences about how they were championing victims' rights but failed to act on the expert recommendations already in their hands. Now victim-survivors have been told to wait even longer. Every day that the government chooses to play politics with these important reforms, victim-survivors continue to face court without crucial protections. They face a system that fails to adequately acknowledge their trauma and fails to adequately punish their assaulters. Queenslanders deserve to be protected.

The court system often retraumatises victim-survivors. Under the current law victims have to endure hearing accounts what of a 'good bloke' their assaulter is while at the same time facing questions like, 'What were you wearing?' and, 'How much did you have to drink?'—especially if they are women. The current system is one that treats perpetrators like good people who have just made a mistake while at the same time blaming and shaming victims for the actions of the person who has assaulted them.

Rape and sexual assault are deeply traumatising and have a lasting impact on victims' lives, their mental health and their sense of safety within our community. I understand just how isolated many feel when going through the court system. This year we have seen multiple bills declared urgent, yet, when it comes to delivering protections for victim-survivors of sexual assault and rape, according to the Crisafulli government their protection is not urgent. Now, when they have a chance to push the reforms through, the government has decided that victims can just wait until November. That is another 165 days where victims will go without these changes, despite Labor's offer of bipartisan support to bring them in sooner.

With almost 75 rape and attempted rape offences per week reported in Queensland in 2023-24, every day this is delayed means that victims are at risk of facing perpetrators in court without these crucial protections. Every day of delay means that more victim-survivors are subjected to inappropriate character references that minimise and discredit their trauma. Every day of delay means courts cannot properly recognise the aggravated nature of offences against children. On this side of the House we mean it when we say that we put victims first. That is why we are moving an amendment for this bill to take effect on assent. There is no excuse to not afford Queensland's victim-survivors the steps towards human dignity the legislation provides. It is the responsibility of this chamber to protect the dignity of victims and Queenslanders. If this government fails to pass these laws as soon as possible then it is failing them.


Many members on both sides of the chamber have acknowledged the importance of the reforms contained in this bill. The four QSAC recommendations being implemented are significant and necessary to preserve victims' dignity. The bill creates an aggravating factor for offences against children, requiring courts to impose tougher sentences for rape or sexual assault against children under 18 and acknowledges both the inherent vulnerability and the profound harm that offences cause children aged 16 and 17.

These reforms also mean that the explicit recognition of victim harm in sentencing ensures courts must acknowledge the lived experience of the victim-survivor. This strengthens trust in our justice system and ensures the human impacts of these crimes are properly considered, allowing victims a stronger sense of justice. It also reforms good-character evidence, finally addressing what advocates have long described as the 'good bloke' defence. Good-character evidence undermines the experience of victims. The QSAC report found that 91.6 per cent of cases referred to such evidence. That is far too many.

We know that for victim-survivors who want justice the court process can be retraumatising. The sickening irony is that often offenders use their perceived good character or status to groom or coercively control victims and then use the same perceived character reference to try to mitigate their sentence. It is beyond comprehension. As a community, we have a moral obligation to minimise this where we can. After going through a gruelling court process, victim-survivors should not have to suffer further harm by having to listen to good-character references for the convicted person. The simple fact is that any person who rapes or assaults someone is not a good person, regardless of what their family, friends and colleagues say. Finally, the amendments in relation to victim impact statements ensure that the absence of a statement can never be interpreted as evidence of little or no harm.

We must also acknowledge that the bill fails to address the remaining recommendations. There were 28 recommendations made in total; the bill addresses only four. I would urge the government to address the remaining recommendations. This is only the first step towards protecting victims of sexual assault. Given how long the Attorney-General has spent drafting this bill, you would think the government may have addressed more of the recommendations. I really hope this is only the first step and that there is more to come on this.

Justice for victims should not be political, which is why we are going to support the bill and move the amendment I have mentioned. Victim-survivors deserve a justice system that recognises their trauma, protects their dignity and holds offenders properly accountable. This bill represents a step towards that goal, and every day it is delayed inflicts further unnecessary harm on victim-survivors. I would urge the government to ensure these laws are enacted immediately. Many victim-survivors in our community already face trauma and the shame that comes with coming forward. This bill will hopefully address that and make it a little bit easier for victim-survivors. We know this can be a really difficult time for victim-survivors and their families and friends, and they can be assured that the government and the Labor opposition will do what we can to voice that and make sure they have protections when it comes to offences like this.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (3.57 pm): I rise in support of the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I take this opportunity to thank our Attorney-General and the chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, along with my colleagues the members for Capalaba and Thuringowa, for their hard work in putting this bill together.

This bill represents a clear step forward in restoring faith in our justice system, a key focus at the core of the Crisafulli government's commitment to our Queensland community. For too long victims of sexual offences were left feeling unheard and let down. Our government is determined to put victims back at the centre of that process and ensure that sentencing reflects both the seriousness of the crime and the harm caused.

I bring to this debate not only my role as the member for Mundingburra and the Assistant Minister for Community Safety but also my background of 28 years in the Queensland Police Service. I spent part of that career in the Juvenile Aid Bureau, now known as the Child Protection and Investigation Unit, investigating sexual offences against our young people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our hardworking detectives in the child protection and investigation units throughout Queensland. To Detective Senior Sergeant Dave Miles of the Townsville district CPIU and all of his hardworking members in that unit, I say thank you for your dedication, your hard work and your support for our victim-survivors.

Those were some of the hardest cases I have ever worked on. I sat across from children and young people who should just be enjoying school, friends, art, sport and fashion, but instead they were recounting terrible experiences of betrayal and abuse. What struck me most was not just the immediate trauma but the long shadow that these crimes cast over their lives. For them, the sentence an offender received was never just a number; it was a signal of whether the system truly recognised their pain. This bill delivers reforms that go to that very issue.

One reform is about ensuring courts properly take into account the vulnerability of our older children—16- and 17-year-olds—when they are victims of sexual assault or rape. Up until now, the law made special provision only for children under 16. Our 16- and 17-year-olds may be approaching adulthood, but when they are victims of sexual offences the law must recognise their vulnerability. This change ensures the law reflects what we all know: that these offences are even more serious when committed against children, regardless of whether they are 12 or 17.

Another important reform deals with what is known as good-character evidence. Too often in the past, offenders have sought to lessen their punishment by pointing to community standing or glowing references. That has never sat well with victims who ask quite rightly how a good character can excuse such terrible actions. Under this bill, such evidence can only be considered if it relates directly to rehabilitation or the risk of reoffending. In other words, the focus shifts from protecting the offender's reputation to protecting the community, and that is where the focus should be.


A further change is the explicit recognition of harm to victims in sentencing. Whilst this might sound technical, it is significant. Anyone who has sat with a victim, as I have many times, knows that the harm goes far beyond the physical. It affects confidence, relationships, careers and mental health, often for life. By making this recognition explicit, the law finally acknowledges what victims have always known: that the harm caused must be central to sentencing.

Finally, the bill makes it clear that, if a victim chooses not to provide a victim impact statement, the court cannot assume that means no harm was caused. That choice should always rest with the victim. Some will want their voices heard through a statement. Others may find it retraumatising or simply too difficult. Either way, the law should not and will not disadvantage them.

Together, these reforms make our sentencing framework stronger and fairer. They are about ensuring the punishment reflects not only the crime but also the impact on victims and the expectations of our community. This bill also contains important amendments beyond sentencing, including to the blue card system, which is correcting Labor's errors and ensuring the safety of our children. The bill contains stronger penalties for those impersonating government agencies, which is protecting Queenslanders from scams and misinformation, and it will align our crimes at sea legislation with national laws so that offenders cannot escape accountability.

This is not about headlines; it is about building a justice system that works for victims and not against them. It is about listening to the voices of our victim-survivors, many of whom have contributed to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's review and to the parliamentary committee's work on this bill. Their courage has driven these reforms, and I thank them sincerely.

When I think back to the young people I worked with in the Juvenile Aid Bureau, I can remember to this day their trauma, but I also remember their courage, their strength and their bravery. They deserved laws that recognised their suffering, that delivered justice and that sent a clear message to offenders. With this bill, we take an important step closer to that goal. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.05 pm): I rise to speak on the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am generally supportive of the amendments made by this bill, but this is once again a circumstance where the proposed changes are no substitute for increased investment in addressing the impacts of sexual violence through therapeutic interventions and structural change and in genuine prevention through mass education and cultural change.

As others have mentioned, the central elements of this bill are around the admissibility of good-character evidence. Specifically, the bill limits the ways in which good-character evidence can be used as a mitigating factor in sentencing for sexual offences. The bill means that this evidence will only be admissible where it is relevant to the offender's prospects of rehabilitation or risk of reoffending.

There are additional limitations, including where a person is being sentenced for an offence against a child aged under 16. In a case such as this, the court cannot treat good-character evidence as a mitigating factor if this presentation assisted them to commit the offence. Good-character evidence can, and often does, include highly subjective, non-professional opinion of an offender's personal traits. As we know, the references might be given by family members or friends of the offenders. It is already within the sentencing court's discretion to include or exclude good-character evidence. However, the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council found that, of 131 District Court rape cases sentenced between July 2022 and June 2023, almost 92 per cent had relied on good-character references. That same QSAC report also found that good character appeared to be given a lot of weight in more than a quarter of those cases. In that context, it is entirely appropriate and I would argue very important for parliament to intervene.

The question has been asked though: are these changes enough? Many stakeholder groups and individual community members submitted that the changes do not go far enough and object to any good-character evidence being permitted on sentencing. This was the submission put forward by a number of submitters, including the Queensland Sexual Assault Network, the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence, the Rape and Sexual Assault Research and Advocacy association, the Victims' Commissioner and an additional 204 individual submitters who specifically supported the submission of the Your Reference Ain't Relevant campaign. Those submissions highlighted the fact that offenders often use their presentation of good character to gain access to victims or their presentation creates opportunities to access victims.

The delivery of good-character references has a profoundly retraumatising effect on victim-survivors. Put simply, the opinions held by friends, family and colleagues of offenders are not relevant in the context of sexual offending. As the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence said in their submission—

What is needed is a robust recognition that good character evidence is no substitute for accurate and reliable professional assessment of risks of recidivism and prospects of rehabilitation.

I also draw attention to the submission of Harrison James, survivor and co-founder of the Your Reference Ain't Relevant campaign. He says—

To be clear, no one is arguing against forgiveness, redemption, or acknowledging an offender's capacity to change. But those considerations belong in rehabilitation programs and parole decisions, not in the moment of sentencing for a grave offence.

I am often concerned about legislation that restricts the discretion of judicial officers to balance the facts of a particular case, especially given the huge variation in the relevant facts and circumstances of the various cases that come before them. However, this has to be seen in the context of a legal system that has historically failed victim-survivors and bought into myths and broader social stereotypes around sexual assault and rape. For that reason, I strongly support the submission of the Victims' Commissioner and their call for programs of judicial education. The court process is incredibly retraumatising for victim-survivors and it is vital that judicial officers overseeing these proceedings are adequately trained to minimise the harm to victim-survivors to the greatest extent possible.

The bill introduces a new purpose for sentencing into the sentencing guidelines of the Penalties and Sentences Act, specifically to recognise the harm done by the offender to a victim of the offence. The new purpose is in addition to the existing purposes, which, generally speaking, are to punish the offender in a way that is just in all the circumstances, to provide conditions for rehabilitation, for general and specific deterrence, to denounce the conduct and to protect the community from the offender. This new purpose will apply not just in the context of sexual offending but in relation to all offending. Courts are already directed to have regard to any physical, mental or emotional harm done to a victim when sentencing an offender. Of course, it is appropriate for harm done to victims to be considered in the sentencing process, but I am concerned about the way this amendment elevates the treatment of that harm—that is, it elevates it from a consideration in sentencing to a purpose of sentencing. This, I would suggest, is reflective of this government's preference for retributive punishment over rehabilitation and, for me, it rings some quite significant alarm bells.


The bill also introduces a provision about the treatment of a victim impact statement or the absence of such a statement. It makes explicit that just because a victim impact statement is not given or because details of the harm caused to a victim are otherwise absent that does not, in and of itself, imply for the purpose of sentencing that the offence caused little or no harm to the victim. Broadly

speaking, I support measures that will support a victim in whatever decision they make about their involvement in proceedings. The decision not to give a statement should not be considered to imply that the offences had no impact. Notably, this amendment will apply in relation to the sentencing of all matters, not just sexual offending.

Legal Aid Queensland referred to its practitioners' experience that 'the courts are unlikely to infer that little or no harm has been caused to the victim as a result of an absence of a victim impact statement. They submit that this amendment is not necessary. When coupled with the newly introduced purpose of sentencing—again, to recognise the harm done to a victim—there is some additional risk around courts being tasked with sentencing for the purpose of recognising an impact where there is, in fact, no evidence of that impact before the court. Given the potential in that dynamic for unintended consequences in the way those provisions interact, I would urge the government to continually monitor and review the impact of these changes.

The bill also includes an aggravating factor for the purpose of sentencing a sexual assault against a child. The courts will retain discretion not to employ this in exceptional circumstances—for example, where the victim and offender are especially close in age. I support that change and, as I have indicated, I broadly support the changes proposed in this bill, but we must be mindful of, and I urge the government to continue to monitor for, potential unintended consequences and continue to reflect on the role that expert evidence might play when we are contemplating prospects of rehabilitation and the risk of reoffending, and in any way possible we should be working in the future to ensure that the way that evidence is treated by the court minimises any retraumatising effect on victims.

I will add that, like the opposition members, I see no reason to delay the commencement of these provisions. The amendment proposed to ensure the earliest possible commencement is one that I support. Due to various unforeseen sickness in my family and caring obligations, there is every possibility I might not be here to cast my vote in support of that later this evening, but I want to make that clear on the record now.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.14 pm): I rise to address the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This legislation represents an important step forward in strengthening Queensland's justice system and delivering on the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government's commitment to make our community safer. Introduced into the Queensland parliament on 20 May 2025 by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, the Hon. Deb Frecklington MP, this legislation was subsequently referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for detailed consideration and consultation. Through its examination, the committee received 197 submissions, in addition to holding a public hearing and public briefing, and I wish to acknowledge and thank all who contributed, especially victims of crime who shared their experiences. As we know, their voices matter and they certainly have been heard by this state government. What is more, Queenslanders can be assured that the Crisafulli LNP state government will continue to listen and will continue to act.

This legislation delivers on four significant recommendations from the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's report *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect*. That report, tabled in December 2024 and released publicly in February this year, highlighted the need for urgent reforms to ensure sentencing better reflects the seriousness of sexual assault and rape and the lifelong impact on victims. The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's report made 28 recommendations in total. This legislation implements the four legislative amendments, but certainly there is more work to do. The Attorney-General has already announced the next stage of reforms, including a holistic review of section 9 of the Penalties and Sentences Act, which sets out sentencing guidelines, and a comprehensive review of the victim impact statement regime. Importantly, these reviews will take place in consultation with victims, stakeholders and the community, and they will lead to further reforms.

The four reforms contained in this legislation are significant and they are landmark changes. Firstly, this legislation introduces a new statutory aggravating factor to make clear that sexual offending against children aged 16 or 17 will be treated with the utmost seriousness. Provisions already exist that recognise the special vulnerability of children under 16. However, the Queensland community rightly expects that offences against older children are also treated as aggravated. Sexual offending against children is one of the most heinous crimes, and this state government is making sure our laws reflect that reality.

Secondly, this legislation reforms the use of so-called good-character evidence at sentencing. For too long, offenders convicted of rape or sexual assault have been able to rely on testimonials about their community standing or personal reputation to argue for lighter sentences. Under reforms

introduced by the Crisafulli LNP state government, such evidence will only be admissible where it is directly relevant to rehabilitation or risk of reoffending. Even then, courts will retain discretion as to whether it should mitigate any sentence. Queensland is the first jurisdiction in the nation to implement this type of restriction. It is bold, it is overdue and it reflects the state government's unwavering focus on victims.

Thirdly, this legislation expands the purpose of sentencing to expressly include recognition of harm caused to victims. The harm from sexual offences can be lifelong, devastating and intergenerational. Under the former government victims were made to feel invisible, with their trauma disregarded in sentencing decisions. In contrast, the Crisafulli LNP state government is putting victims front and centre by ensuring our courts recognise the impact of these crimes when imposing sentences.

Finally, this legislation clarifies that the absence of a victim impact statement does not mean that a victim has not been harmed. Too often victims are retraumatised by the legal process and choose not to provide such statements. That is certainly their right and we respect that, but it should never lead to the false inference that they were not harmed. This reform respects victims' choices while ensuring that offenders do not benefit from a victim's silence.

Each of these reforms is measured, considered and properly framed. That stands in stark contrast with the Labor opposition's attempt earlier this year to rush through last-minute amendments. That attempt by Labor to push changes through the House under an urgency motion would have taken away the ability for Queenslanders to have their say on significant reforms. Worse still, their changes were poorly drafted, incomplete and, in some cases, fundamentally flawed. Take, for example, the Labor opposition's proposal on good-character evidence. Labor's amendment would have prevented courts from considering that a person's good standing in the community, which placed them in a position of trust, actually aggravated their offending. That is extraordinary.


Under Labor's model, a teacher, coach or community leader who abused their position to commit sexual offences could have escaped having that betrayal recognised in sentencing. Similarly, their proposed changes on recognising harm were limited to surviving victims, which would have meant that courts could not have acknowledged the harms caused to victims of unlawful killing, including those who suffered sexual assault immediately before their death. This would have been an appalling oversight and a direct insult to victims. The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government, through its calm, considered and methodical approach with considered consultation, will not make such mistakes. We are ensuring these reforms are correct, robust and effective.

Before concluding my contribution, I want to acknowledge that, beyond the core reforms from the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council report, this legislation also strengthens protections in other important areas. This legislation will introduce a new offence of falsely representing a government agency. Queenslanders must be able to trust official communications. Anyone who impersonates a government for fraudulent or malicious purposes undermines public confidence and endangers the community. This new offence carries a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment, sending a clear signal that such conduct will not be tolerated. I note that this legislation also makes important amendments to the working with children framework, ensuring the blue card system is operating as intended. These amendments address drafting errors left by the former Labor state government, and they respond to the recommendations of the Queensland Family and Child Commission.

Child safety is paramount. Every Queenslander should have confidence that those working with our children are held to the highest possible standards. There is a stark contrast between the Crisafulli LNP state government and the former Labor state government. Labor govern for headlines. They tried to patch problems with rushed ill-considered legislation that did not stand up to scrutiny. They certainly ignored victims and put offenders first. The Crisafulli LNP state government is governing for all Queenslanders. We are delivering thoughtful, principled and victim focused reforms. We are rebuilding trust in our justice system and we are making Queensland safer. This legislation is another demonstration of our commitment to a fair and efficient justice system that prioritises victims and protects the community. Certainly, at the last state election, we gave a commitment to all of Queensland that we would restore community safety. It is about ensuring sentences reflect the gravity of sexual offending, it is about ensuring victims are not retraumatised by the process and it is about standing up for the values and expectations of Queenslanders.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the courage of the victims who contributed to the development and consideration of these reforms and to those who continue to speak out and share their experiences so that others may be protected. Can I also acknowledge the parliamentary members

of the committee on both sides of the House for the work that they undertook in relation to scrutinising the legislation and the work that they did in compiling the report, as well as the relevant committee secretariat because all of those processes are very important when we are looking at legislation and scrutinising it before it comes back to the House. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (4.23 pm): I rise to speak on the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This is a bill that deals with rape and sexual assault—crimes that devastate lives. Let's be clear from the start: the only reason that this bill is here is Labor acted and Labor forced this government to act. In 2023 Labor tasked the Sentencing Advisory Council to review sentences for rape and sexual assault. That process involved hearing from survivors, from experts and from frontline workers and it resulted in 28 recommendations. That report landed on the Attorney-General's desk all the way back in December last year and then what happened? Well, nothing happened. For almost six months it sat there—no response, no plan, no urgency and no action. Then Labor acted. On 18 May this year, we announced that we would bring amendments. On 19 May we sent those amendments to the Attorney-General and the very next day the government introduced this bill, copying the Labor opposition word for word. They did not lead; they followed. They followed because we forced them to, but even then they refused to act with urgency. We offered bipartisan support. Labor offered bipartisan support to declare this bill urgent and pass it that week. The LNP government said no.

This government have used urgency motions before for a range of justice matters like youth justice. They have even used them to reform the Trusts Act, but they were not prepared to use urgency motions to deliver justice for victims of rape. From report to debate, there were 119 days of deliberate delay. Now they want these key protections delayed further until November 2025. If we do the maths, in 2023-24 there were 3,898 rapes and attempted rapes in Queensland which is 75 a week and around 10 a day—10 every day. By November, more than 1,600 victims will face court without these protections. The government can, the government could and the government should agree to commence on assent. Instead, they will delay again, denying justice to more than 1,600 Queenslanders. Premier Crisafulli promised there would be fewer victims. Instead, his inaction has created more victims—more victims of rape, more victims of sexual assault—because these reforms should act as a deterrent. This is a premier who has delayed the introduction of a deterrent to rape. The Attorney-General claims speedy reforms. The truth is she has been lazy, sitting on her hands for months and months while survivors have paid the price.

Under this Premier, Queenslanders know that they are not a 'victim of crime' if they are a tradie whose tools are stolen out the back of their ute. They now also know they were not a 'victim of rape for whom justice could have been done for four months', thanks to this weak leadership. This government have run a protection operation for rapists for 120 days since 20 May, and now we know that they will continue to run that operation for another 45 days. This is a government that is prepared to risk the lives of kids at festivals by banning pill testing with no delay, but it is happy to run a protection operation for rapists for 165 days.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your clarification. I would question whether that is appropriate language. It is an inference on every single member of the government. I take personal offence and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Minister, as you are aware, you cannot take personal offence on that matter. Are you suggesting that the language was unparliamentary? If that is the case, I will seek some advice from the table. Is that your contention?

Mr MANDER: Yes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Springwood, please resume.

Mr de BRENNI: The LNP government talks tough, but what this process in the House demonstrates is that when it comes to protecting the most vulnerable it folds. Why? It is because it would mean standing up to the misogynists in their own ranks—men like the federal member for Bowman, who is known for fat-shaming women, or the federal member for Longman, who said that men prefer maths and women prefer hairdressing.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This line of—

Mr Power: Is there a point of order?

Ms SIMPSON: It is on relevance. The member is not being relevant to the legislation. He is straying and his contributions are not actually relevant to the legislation before the House, which is clearly the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Your point of order is on relevance. Member for Springwood, I have to agree that you seem to be straying somewhat from the core purpose of this bill. Can you give any reason what you are saying is relevant to the bill, perhaps pointing to a particular clause or section?

Mr de BRENNI: Indeed, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member for Maroochydore might think that sort of conduct from those individuals is good behaviour—

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Now he is being plain offensive and I ask that he withdraw. We are talking about the Penalties and Sentences Act. It is also about relevance, but that was offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Firstly, I will deal with the first point of order. Member for Springwood, the member has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

Mr de BRENNI: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Secondly, that was not a good resumption of your contribution. I asked you to explain why what you were saying was relevant to the bill. I ask you to do so quick smart, please.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I was directly responding to your request to explain relevance. This bill is about dealing with defences that perpetrators of rape and sexual assault use and removing this 'good bloke' defence. I think it is entirely relevant to point out the sorts of characteristics, comments and statements that are made by some blokes who might be considered to be good blokes by some.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, no more interjections, please. Member for Springwood, you are trying my patience. I do not see that as being relevant. I ask you to move on. If you do not resume being relevant, I will ask you to sit down and I will move to a member who can be.

Mr de BRENNI: Rape occurs in society. It is a horrific crime and oftentimes it occurs as a result of men in authority sending the wrong messages to other men that women can be diminished. In too many cases where men in leadership positions do that—

Mr Mander: Like the member for Cairns?

Mr de BRENNI: I am not taking any interjections.

Mr Mander: Like the member for Cairns?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton.

Mr de BRENNI: I am not taking any interjections, Mr Deputy Speaker. When men in leadership send the wrong message to other men that women can be diminished, in too many cases that green-lights attitudes that can lead to rape.

The Crisafulli LNP government acted to get tougher on shoplifting quicker than they have done on rape. In fact, their signature piece of legislation did not even include the crime of rape. We had to force them to fix that. That is the truth. The bill implements four reforms. We know what they are. Labor supports them. What I am saying and what I submit to the House is that they should already be law. That is why Labor will move to strike out the delayed commencement clause. These protections must start immediately, not months down the track in November—not in months or weeks—and we are not alone—

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, if I have to refer to you again, I will be warning you under the standing orders.

Mr de BRENNI: We are not alone. In reading the committee report and looking at the statement of reservation we see some of the most respected legal minds in the country referring to the actions of this government as 'delaying improvements to our justice system for victims and victim-survivors of sexual assault'. That is the record of this government: delay, denial and more victims. This bill, though, is here because Labor forced this government's hand. The Premier and the Attorney-General still drag


their feet. They delay justice. For every week of delay, there are 75 more victims. Every day, 10 more lives are devastated. By November, over 1,600 victims will have been denied the protections these reforms would afford. The Premier promised fewer victims, but he has delivered more because he has delayed deterrence.

Mr Mander: You have overseen the DNA debacle and you have the hide to come in here and say that.

Mr de BRENNI: I am not taking any interjections.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr de BRENNI: The Premier promised fewer victims, but he has delivered more because he has delayed the deterrence. The Attorney-General promised reform; she oversaw and delivered delay. This parliament—all members of this House—has a choice tonight: stand with survivors and commence these laws now or side with a government leadership that is weak, lazy and unwilling to stand up for victims of rape and sexual assault. Justice delayed is justice denied. Survivors have waited long enough.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.35 pm): For too long victims of rape and sexual violence have been left behind in this state—their voices ignored, their pain minimised and their rights overshadowed. The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering a fair and effective justice system that puts the rights of victims first, delivers consequences for actions and makes Queensland a safer place to live. When it comes to sentencing rapists and sexual predators, those sentences must reflect the seriousness of the crimes they have committed and the lifelong impacts their crimes have on their victims.

The Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 is a landmark step towards this. It introduces sentencing provisions that reflect community expectations and implements key recommendations from the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. First, it makes clear that sexual offences against children are among the most heinous crimes imaginable. Sexual offending against children under the age of 16 is treated at law as heinous and the age of the child is an aggravating factor at sentence, but these same protections are not given to 16- or 17-year-olds. The court will now be required to treat the age of a 16- or 17-year-old victim as an aggravating factor when sentencing the perpetrator for rape or sexual assault, closing a gap in the law.

Second, it reforms how courts deal with so-called good-character evidence of sexual predators. For too long offenders have been allowed to stand behind character references at sentencing. These are offenders who have been found guilty of rape or sexual assault, yet they are allowed to hide behind glowing references claiming they are a 'good bloke', while victims' experiences are pushed aside. Those days are over. Under our laws, submissions about character are only relevant in relation to rehabilitation or risk of reoffending and they should not ever be a shield to minimise or mitigate the sentence or the harm that a rapist or sexual predator has inflicted.

Let's take a moment to observe the farce we are seeing on the Labor side of the House. The very same Labor members who now claim to support our new reforms limiting the 'good bloke' shield have time and again used the 'good bloke' defence to suit their own purposes. We all remember the member for Greenslopes. He stood up in this place and delivered a long list of glowing personal references to defend his colleague the member for Stafford, who was accused of domestic violence. Labor trotted out character references, spoke glowingly of union records and painted him as a good bloke who simply made mistakes. That is the culture this bill is stamping out, a culture where excuses are made for men in power while women are left to suffer in silence. Labor's defence—making excuses, protecting and promoting their mate—is a betrayal of every victim who has been told to speak up, and it does not stop there.

I listened to the member for Springwood's contribution just now. He forgets about the member for Cairns. When he was exposed for endorsing disgusting jokes about sexual violence against women, Labor's own frontbenchers rushed to his defence. The members for Jordan, McConnel, Bulimba and Waterford all lined up in this chamber to make excuses for him and to urge everyone to move on. The member for Bulimba even held a press conference to defend him, standing in front of cameras in Cairns declaring that she supported her colleague. I listened to the member for Springwood say that when men stand by when other men make disparaging comments about women and endorse sexual violence they open the door to rape. That is exactly what members of the Labor Party did with the member for Cairns. They have stood by and defended him and they have defended his conduct when he shared disgusting and vile jokes about sexual violence.

Labor members cannot have it both ways. They cannot tell Queenslanders that 'good bloke' evidence has no place in court while using those exact defences to excuse and minimise or explain away the behaviour of their colleagues. What message does that send to survivors of domestic and sexual violence? When it is one of Labor's own, character references are okay. When Labor's own members are under siege, character references suddenly matter. Reputations and factional loyalties matter more than the voices of women.

This bill draws a line under Labor's hypocrisy. It says once and for all that a rapist or abuser does not get a discount because they are popular in their community, well connected in their caucus or a so-called 'good bloke' in the eyes of their mates. It is a clear contrast. While Labor reaches for excuses, our Crisafulli government is delivering real reform that puts victims first and ensures justice reflects the seriousness of sexual violence.

What is more, Labor is trying to criticise the proper process we undertook to get these reforms right. We opened the process up to public scrutiny and through the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee we have listened to the voices of victims and advocates—victims like Kelly Humphries, a child sexual abuse survivor and former Queensland police officer with almost two decades of service. She had the opportunity to have her voice heard by the committee. Kelly wrote—

Perpetrators do not just groom children they groom entire communities. Families. Institutions ... It is a calculated betrayal ...

When a convicted offender is defended in court by letters praising their 'good nature,' it sends a cruel and devastating message to victims and survivors: What happened to you matters less than how well they played their part in public.

These individuals infiltrate families, schools, and sports teams. They prey on the vulnerable. Yet they are still described as 'good people.' But they are not, not when their so-called goodness is used to excuse, shield, justify, or minimise abuse.

I know this because I lived it.

...

This is an institutional loophole that enables abuse. It must be closed. No survivor should sit in a courtroom and watch their abuser be praised for being 'a good person.'

If Labor had its way, survivors like Kelly would not have had the opportunity to share their experience, to have their voice heard, to have their views on character references for rapists heard by the committee. Then there is the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence, which very rightly stated—

A person of genuinely good character would not commit a sexual offence ...

...

Rape is a choice, not an irresistible urge.

The Queensland Sexual Assault Network said—


Victim-survivors must prove their case to the highest evidentiary level, and it is then galling for them to see how easily a convicted rapist/sex offender can rely on the ... opinion evidence of family and friends ... and that these references can influence sentencing outcome.

This bill draws a line in the sand in relation to that conduct. It says 'good bloke' evidence cannot be used at sentencing, it cannot be a mitigating factor and it cannot be a shield that rapists and sexual predators hide behind, yet members of the Labor Party used that very same shield to shield the member for Cairns and the member for Stafford. They stand up in this House and they claim that the conduct you walk past is the conduct you endorse, yet they walked past the member for Cairns and they walked past the member for Stafford. They continue to support those members in this House, even though the member for Cairns shared vile commentary endorsing sexual violence against women and joking about sexual violence against women. All the Labor frontbenchers stood up and endorsed it, made excuses for him, walked past it and said that Queenslanders should move on. It is a slap in the face to all victim-survivors and they have zero credibility in this space.

This bill also expands the purpose of sentencing to recognise the harm suffered by victims. We know that this harm is profound, it is lifelong and it is devastating, particularly if the victim-survivor is a child. This reform ensures sentences can expressly recognise that reality and it puts the rights of victims before the rights of rapists and sexual predators. This bill also protects the dignity of victims by clarifying that a court cannot infer from the absence of a victim impact statement that no impact was caused. Under no circumstance should a victim-survivor's silence be a suggestion that they are okay. These are victims of rape and sexual assault and if they choose not to provide a statement that should not be a mitigating factor. Their silence must never be used to diminish the seriousness of what they endured.

This bill is not the end of the reform; it is just the beginning. The remaining QSAC recommendations are currently being carefully considered by the Attorney-General and she has already announced some of the next stages of this reform such as a holistic review and a comprehensive review of the victim impact statement regime. These reviews will ensure our sentencing framework evolves to meet the expectations of Queenslanders and continues the work we are doing to prioritise the rights of victims.

With regard to the rights of victims, we are also developing a nation-leading victim advocate service to put the rights of victims before the rights of offenders and ensure all victims are supported throughout the justice process. We have expanded the victims of crime community response so that it is statewide to support all Queenslanders after major incidences no matter where they live. This is what a government committed to victims and community safety looks like. We are delivering a justice system that reflects the seriousness of sexual violence, that recognises the harm to victims and that strengthens protections for children, community and victim-survivors of rape and sexual assault.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (4.45 pm): I rise in support of the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, and I do so because this bill is here because of the Labor Party. This bill is here because of the work that Labor started in government around tasking the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council to conduct this very thorough work to ensure that those people who experience some of the most heinous crime—crimes of a sexual and violent nature—are supported, that they are heard, that they receive justice for the terrible crime that was committed against them.

This bill is here because Labor put pressure on the government to bring these amendments. This report by the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council was provided to this government in December last year. It took no action in respect of that bill until the amendments were introduced in this parliament after advocacy and calls by the Labor opposition. We support this bill because it supports victims and it assists in delivering justice for those victims, but it is disappointing that this government has not, in our view, treated these amendments with the priority that they deserve and the priority in support of victims of these heinous crimes.

I note that the bill will implement a number of recommendations of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council: recommendation 1, which is around the aggravating factor for offences against children, and this change means courts can impose tougher sentences for rape or sexual assault against children, recognising their vulnerability; recommendation 2, which is recognition of victim harm in that the sentencing must explicitly recognise the lived harm of victim-survivors, strengthening trust in the justice system; recommendation 5, which is reforms to the use of good-character evidence which ends the so-called 'good bloke' defence, and character evidence should only be relevant to rehabilitation or risk of reoffending; and recommendation 23, which is around victim impact statements and making it clear that the absence of a statement must never be taken as evidence of little or no harm.

It is concerning and disappointing that not only has it taken the government time to bring amendments to further the implementation of those four recommendations but it is not agreeing with the opposition's call—a call for bipartisanship, a call to ensure that victims are put first—around making sure that these recommendations, once implemented, commence immediately on assent. This government is delaying the implementation further of these recommendations.

In respect of recommendation 1, the question the government has to answer to those children who are experiencing and have had heinous things inflicted upon them for rape or sexual assault is why that aggravating factor is being delayed in respect of those children having justice—notwithstanding the opposition's call to have these recommendations implemented sooner and to have them commence immediately. Why are those children denied justice?

The government is also delaying implementation of recommendation 2, recognition of victim harm—explicitly recognising the lived harm of victim-survivors. What does this government say to those victim-survivors? Why should victims of heinous crimes have to endure the perpetrator tendering 'good bloke' evidence for a period of time longer than the commencement that we are proposing—that is, immediately on assent of this bill?

Mrs Nightingale: No reason.

Mr RYAN: I take the interjection from the member for Inala. There is no reason. The government has to explain that to those victims. Why will victims who choose not to tender a victim impact statement not have the benefit of recommendation 23 commencing immediately on assent?

These are questions that the government has to answer. The questions extend to a broader agenda, I think, in respect of this whole suite of amendments. The question also needs to be answered by the government about the timeline around implementing the remaining recommendations from the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council report. There were 28 recommendations in that report. I hope that the government treats those remaining recommendations with greater priority than it has the four we are debating in this bill—the four that are being delayed by this government.

In relation to the broader piece around recognising victim-survivors and their experience in the criminal justice system, there was much work done through the *Hear her voice* reports. How are the recommendations in respect of those reports progressing? They go to the heart of a victim-survivor's experience in the criminal justice system. How are the recommendations around the commission of inquiry into the Queensland Police Service progressing? Have those members opposite now read the report? A few of them acknowledged that they had not read the report. Are they treating those recommendations with the sincerity and priority that they deserve? They, too, go to the victim-survivor's experience in the criminal justice system. What is going on with the Independent Implementation Supervisor? I understand that that position is vacant. It is a very important position when it comes to ensuring the reforms around those reports are being implemented with the necessary haste and genuineness.

The opposition has come to this debate with a hand extended in bipartisanship. We wanted to ensure that the recommendations were implemented as quickly as possible. We wanted to ensure that they provided immediate support to victim-survivors. Unfortunately, the government slapped that hand of bipartisanship away. We have seen throughout this debate the lack of decency in many contributions from those opposite who choose not to highlight the priority around supporting victim-survivors but try to score political points. It is a shame. It is a shame because this debate could open itself up for us to highlight shortcomings in the approach of those opposite. Who could forget that 10 years ago the LNP in government changed the law to reduce monitoring periods for child sex offenders? Overnight, 1,700 paedophiles stopped being monitored by the Queensland Police Service. Let's think about that for a moment when it comes to victims of sexual assault: 1,700 paedophiles who were monitored by the Queensland Police Service stopped being monitored. How many of those child sex offenders went on to commit crimes against children? How many victims were there as a result of that decision of the LNP?

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr RYAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand that the member for Everton is on a warning.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I will get some advice.

Mr MANDER: I concede that, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you were already on a warning. You will leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Everton withdrew from the chamber at 4.55 pm.

Mr RYAN: We come into this debate with the hand of bipartisanship extended. Those opposite whack it away. They do not want to talk about their record. They do not want to put their efforts where their rhetoric sits. This bill supports victim-survivors. It should start immediately on assent because that is what victim-survivors deserve.



Hon. FS SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (4.56 pm): I support this legislation before the House brought through the Crisafulli government's commitment to strengthen our justice system, hear the voices of victims and enable greater protections. This is an area of great significance.

The Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 addresses four major recommendations put forward by the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council in its report *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect*. I will unpack some of the issues that are involved, but I first want to call out the hypocrisy of the Labor Party members, in particular those who have just spoken. They somehow have forgotten that the worst ever debacle, probably in the world, with regard to a justice system happened under their watch. A DNA lab failed so badly it let down sexual assault victims. Rape kits—DNA testing for rape and sexual assault—were not being processed for

more than 400 days. How does one get justice for victims of sexual assault when there is a major failure—the worst in the world that we know of—of a DNA lab that was supposed to enable those tests to go before a court or to catch a perpetrator and get them into the justice system to get justice for the victims? How on earth can Labor members say that they are standing up for the victim when they have gone silent about this debacle? Sexual assault is one of the worst types of crime. We must not forget the failure that caused delay in having either a perpetrator brought to justice or the full weight of evidence before the court to ensure justice is done. It is a major issue that now has to be cleaned up. The Crisafulli government is committed to ensuring that work is undertaken.

We have before the House four recommendations from the QSAC report. Firstly, I want to focus on the recommendation that relates to impact statements. I will relay a story, de-identified of course, about a family in which a young child suffered a terrible assault. The child has a disability and was not able to give an impact statement. I know about the extra trauma that family faced because of how they felt the justice system may have viewed the lack of an impact statement. They felt it may have somehow disadvantaged them in terms of the legal process and the court's consideration of the true impact because they were not able to speak on behalf of the young disabled person who had suffered terribly.


Victim impact statements are a means of giving voice to the victims. This legislation will make it very clear that the absence of an impact statement does not mean that there is an absence of harm to the victim. The fact that that is in the legislation that we are debating tonight is because of the voices of victims who know that if a victim is unable to provide an impact statement—and that can be for various reasons, including trauma, and as in the example I just provided—they must not be disadvantaged when the court comes to sentence the perpetrator. I firstly want to acknowledge that. It is a point that the family raised with me. They felt disadvantaged because, in their case, the victim could not give an impact statement. This legislation makes it clear beyond doubt that the lack of an impact statement will not be a disadvantage when the court considers issues of guilt and other issues before the court.

Another recommendation of the QSAC report qualifies the treatment of good-character evidence when sentencing offenders convicted of sexual offences. It is, as colloquially named in this place, the 'good bloke' test. It has been well and truly outlined why it matters that good-character evidence is not used in a way that absolves a perpetrator of heinous behaviour. It should be self-evident that this recommendation, which is now an amendment in the bill before the House, is about the fact that it is retraumatising for victims to have to listen to the so-called 'good bloke' or good-character evidence brought forward during the sentencing of offenders. It is retraumatising when someone realises that nothing in good-character evidence can ever truly address the fundamental substance of the crime committed against them so why should it be presented in such a way?

This legislation will address 'good bloke' or good-character evidence given when sentencing offenders. We are hearing the voices of victims, addressing their concerns and ensuring that the weight of the alleged good-character evidence does not, in fact, undermine the very justice processes in regard to sentencing. As we have heard before, the amendments that the Labor members have put before the House, unfortunately, run the risk of perversely having the opposite consequence to what they hope to achieve. That is the problem with their lack of consideration and attention to detail when it comes to what they have put before the House.

Another QSAC recommendation that is now before the House will require the court to treat the fact that an offence of rape or sexual assault committed in relation to a child is an aggravating factor in sentencing. Sixteen- or 17-year-olds are still vulnerable. They are still children. The legislative amendment before the House acknowledges that it should be a new statutory aggravating factor when determining the appropriate sentence for an offender convicted of an offence of rape or sexual assault against a child aged 16 or 17 years. The court must treat the age of the victim as an aggravating factor unless the court considers it is not reasonable because of the exceptional circumstances of the case. Furthermore, the legislation provides that, in deciding the issue of whether there are exceptional circumstances, the court may have regard to the closeness in age between the offender and the victim. This is a very important recognition that children need to be protected. While these are older children, they are still incredibly vulnerable. Having this as a statutory aggravating factor that is taken into consideration in sentencing is very important.

The legislation includes a recognition of the harm done to a victim for sentencing purposes and other amendments. I stand with the government in standing for victims. I acknowledge the contribution of my colleague the Minister for Victim Support, who spoke about the very important work we are doing to strengthen the support that victims deserve and that they must have.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.06 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I thank the minister for bringing forward this bill. The Crisafulli government has committed to making sure that we deliver a fair and efficient justice system and, most importantly, one that prioritises the rights of victims over the rights of offenders. This means we have to unwind some of the weak legislation that Labor has put in place over the past decade. It was a decade of decline. Some of my constituents have suffered under that legislation. One of the things we took to the election was a promise to make things safer where you live. This is delivering on that promise. By strengthening these laws we are delivering on that promise.

We on this side of the parliament absolutely acknowledge the harm experienced by victims of crime. That is made harder when they find themselves ignored or, more difficultly, told that evidence does not exist.

There has been a lot of talk about urgency and making sure that things are done in a timely manner. I will relay a brief story from my electorate involving a victim who came forward. She could not believe that the DNA sample that she had provided after a drug affected sexual attack on her was not available and was taking so long. Eventually, after pursuing it, she was told that it did not meet the threshold. This goes to the point of those on the other side who have been talking about things being timely. It took months for the evidence to be prepared and then she was told that the evidence did not meet the threshold.

Following advice from our minister and our side of the parliament, she asked for an alternative test. It turned out that, when that test was done, there was in fact evidence. She was about to be denied justice because of a complete failure—one of the most horrendous failures—of the justice system overseen by several different leaders of the Labor Party over a decade. She was nearly denied the opportunity of being able to hold her perpetrators to account. That was one factor.

Worse than that, it was even to the point where people were saying, 'If there's no evidence, what does that mean? Did it happen?' She was retraumatised by having to go through what the former Labor government put her through. That DNA debacle is now being managed by the Attorney-General, and my community thanks her for all of the efforts that are being made to get the evidence that is required to allow justice to be fair and prompt.


If we reflect more closely on this bill, the key part of it is our unwavering commitment to victims. That is the key part of the bill. We need to create an evidentiary trowel that people can take to court and put into context what happened to make sure the court understands the full extent of the suffering that the victim has endured and the impact that the perpetrator has had on them.

If we look at the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's recommendations in its report, the first one included in this bill makes age a statutory aggravating factor when a 16- or 17-year-old has been offended against. This is really important because there is a gap here where age has not been considered an aggravating factor on all occasions. If someone is under 16 years old, it is very clear how the court should treat the impact of the offence on them, but it has not been clear for someone who is 16 or 17 years old. As a father of two daughters, I can only imagine how horrendous it must have been for daughters and their families who have found themselves in the situation where they have been treated as an adult and their age has not been an aggravating circumstance. For that now to be a statutory requirement is critically important and a very good thing to have in place.

I turn now to the restriction on good-character evidence. Courts may only consider a community standing reference or reputation if it is directly relevant to rehabilitation or risk of reoffending. It would be pretty heinous for a victim to be present in a courtroom after their perpetrator has been found guilty and is trying to get their sentence reduced by having a bunch of people say, 'They're a pretty good person. They might have committed this heinous crime, but maybe we should put that behind them and let them move on.' The victim does not get the opportunity to move on. They have been affected for life. Taking that character evidence away and making sure the court cannot take into consideration other people's views of their reputation is a really good move. It is pretty offensive that someone could suggest they do not want the crime they have committed to affect their life too much in sentencing. It is just heinous.

In relation to the recognition of harm to victims, the purpose of sentencing is to expand to include explicit recognition of victim harm. This is not merely restorative in language; it provides a firmer foundation for justifying heavier penalties where the psychological and social damage is severe. This is really important. Victims should be able to have the circumstances that have affected their lives—that have caused them irreparable harm—be considered by the court in sentencing. It is only fair and just, which is exactly what the LNP and the Crisafulli government are about—fair, just, victims first.

The last recommendation is a change to victim impact statements. Courts will be directed not to infer from the absence of a victim impact statement that the harm did not occur. I have a situation which I will talk about in broad terms because the matter is still open. Somebody came to my office totally terrified that they will have to put in a statement to get fair treatment. They do not want to be retraumatised. They do not want to sit down and think about how to word the statement. They do not want to be forced to relive what has been the worst experience of their life. For a court to interpret someone's terror at having to write a statement as that the offending maybe did not have that much of an impact on them so the court should hand down a lighter sentence is, again, heinous. It does not support the women of our community. Ensuring victims do not have to put in a statement shows that the Crisafulli LNP government is on the victims' side as they seek justice.

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (5.16 pm): I rise today in full support of the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Over the last six years I have walked the streets of Rockhampton and surrounding regions. I have knocked on doors, made calls and listened deeply to the voices of our community. What I heard time and again was a growing unease—families no longer felt safe and individuals shared stories of fear, frustration and a sense that the system had stopped protecting them. This erosion of safety and justice against offenders did not happen overnight; it was the result of years of neglect and denial—

A government member: Ten years.

Mrs KIRKLAND: Ten years—particularly when the previous government weakened the youth justice laws. That decision triggered a wave of youth crime, emboldening the offenders and leaving victims without justice.

Mr McDonald: A generation of untouchables.

Mrs KIRKLAND: A generation of untouchables, indeed—I will take that interjection. The consequences were devastating and the community felt abandoned.

To those who have bravely shared their personal experiences through the committee submissions and community forums, I say thank you. Their courage has helped shape this bill and their voices have made it clear that our justice system needs reform. For too long it has tilted in favour of offenders, leaving victims sidelined and unheard. Alongside the great work already done by the Crisafulli government, this bill continues to correct that imbalance.

Presented in late December 2024 and then released to the public in February this year was the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's report *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect*. This report laid the groundwork. It offered 28 recommendations, four of which are now being enshrined in legislation. Firstly, courts must treat sexual offences against children as aggravating factors in sentencing. The culpability of such offences against our most vulnerable should never be overlooked. Secondly, sentencing must explicitly acknowledge the harm done to victims. Survivors of sexual abuse will never fully be free from the ripple effect of their experience, and this needs to be taken into account during sentencing. Thirdly, the use of good-character evidence must now be qualified, especially when that very character enabled the offending. Fourthly, courts must not assume minimal harm simply because a victim impact statement was not submitted. Not all those who have been violated, including our youngest of victims, have the capacity to submit impact statements. By assuming minimal harm, the courts only further add to their violation. These reforms are not just technical adjustments; they are moral imperatives and they reflect what our communities have been demanding for years.

I will now address the delays and the political posturing from those opposite. For 10 years the previous government had the opportunity to act, yet it was not until 2023 that they even acknowledged the need for change. When they finally did, their original proposed amendments were flawed. For instance, their version of the good-character clause would have prevented courts from considering how an offender's respected status in the community may have facilitated their crime. That is not justice; that is a loophole.

Another glaring issue was their narrow definition of victim harm. Their proposal only recognised harm to surviving victims, ignoring those who suffered abuse immediately before death. Their oversight was not just technical; it was a fundamental failure to honour the full scope of trauma. These missteps under the watch of the previous government are exactly why Queenslanders lost faith in their ability to protect them.

This bill, however, is different. It is trauma informed. It is victim focused. It is built on the understanding that justice must be both fair and compassionate. To achieve that, we put this bill out to the public for their scrutiny and input. To all members of the committee who oversaw the submissions and the heart-wrenching testimonies and presentations, I say thank you on behalf of the people of Queensland.

The remaining 24 recommendations from the QSAC report are being reviewed through a staged process. We are not rushing. We are getting it right. Under the leadership of the Crisafulli government, we have made real progress in just 10 months. We have introduced the Making Queensland Safer Laws. We are fixing the Queensland DNA laboratory debacle. We have made Jack's Law permanent. We have introduced Daniel's Law to improve visibility of child sex offenders. We have strengthened protections through the domestic and family violence protection bill. We have reformed parole through the corrective services amendment bill. We have advanced integrity with the crime and corruption bill. We have commenced the commission of inquiry into the flawed child safety system.

Each of these reforms reflect our unwavering commitment to community safety. As a mother and a grandmother, I feel this deeply. You do not need to be a parent to understand the importance of protecting our children. Every Queenslander expects that those who are entrusted with our children—teachers, carers and coaches—are all held to the highest standard. That is why we are here today. We are ensuring the reforms recommended by the Queensland Family and Child Commission's report *Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: review of the blue card system* are properly implemented. Our review of the blue card system is also a part of that promise.

This bill is not the end. It is a milestone. It is a signal to every victim that their voice matters. It is a message to every offender that justice will be served. It is a commitment to every Queenslander that their safety is indeed our priority. I commend this bill to the House.



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.23 pm): This bill is another step on the way to achieving the primary policy objective of this government—the prioritisation of the rights of victims over criminals. This was a key policy we took to the last election and one which was prosecuted throughout the four years in opposition. It was the basis for the clear distinction between the policies and practices of the then government and the ambitious agenda we championed to restore the primacy of victims' rights. We are determined to strike the right balance so that those who have been the victim of criminal behaviour have their voices heard and do not have to take second place in the queue behind criminals.

All our legislative reforms have been designed to put victims first. Had things been allowed to proceed as they were, victims of crime would have fallen even further behind. Their interests would have drifted into the background and their legitimate rights would have been ignored. That had to stop.

I wish to confine my remarks to the amendments proposed to the Penalties and Sentences Act and its relationship to the sentencing for sexual offences. The centrepiece of this bill is to change the sentencing provisions to ensure they better reflect community expectations and draw on the December 2024 report of the Sentencing Advisory Council, *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect*.

Existing laws can act to discourage complainants from coming forward. The investigative and trial processes can throw up their own unique barriers and complainants may conclude that the sentencing process is designed to lessen the impact of the offence, can lessen their suffering and conversely limit the possibility of the defendant paying the appropriate penalty using misguided good-character evidence. The report makes the critical point—

There are also some aspects of the sentencing process that we consider in urgent need of reform with respect to the use of 'good character' evidence and to improve victim survivors' experiences.

It can be particularly galling to a victim survivor to hear at the time of sentence that the person who perpetrated sexual harm on them is otherwise a 'good guy', a 'great father' or a model employee or citizen. It is even more upsetting when these statements are referred to uncritically by the sentencing judge and magistrate—even if in practice they may be given little weight.

This bill will correct this inappropriate application of the law. Defendants will no longer be able to seek a reduction in their sentence by relying on friends and associates attesting to their good character. It is self-evident that the likelihood of a convicted rapist being a person of good character is virtually nil. An offender will have to make sure any restricted evidence directly relates to their prospect of rehabilitation or risks of reoffending. No longer will they be able to draw a veil over their reprehensible and despicable behaviour.

This reform is long overdue and I wonder why those opposite took so long to initiate a change in the law. The shadow police minister said that the introduction of these reforms was too slow. Labor had a decade to introduce them but did nothing. We have acted within six months while Labor sat staring like a rabbit caught in the headlights. Those opposite sat around the cabinet table for nearly 10 years but could not be bothered to do anything. Like so much of what Labor does now in opposition, their response has been reduced to pure politics. Why am I not surprised. I was equally unsurprised to hear the shadow attorney-general give an accurate description of what I assume was Labor's policy-making process. The shadow minister said—

They talk tough and they hold press conferences, but when it comes to doing the work that actually helps victim-survivors they vanish.

Clearly, the shadow minister was an astute observer of the *modus operandi* of the Palaszczuk-Miles government in their approach to pretending to be tough on criminals. For a decade, Labor shirked their responsibilities. They pretended to care, but in reality they only cared about themselves. Labor failed to acknowledge the position of the victims of crime. Their hands-off approach always put victims last and they only acted when they were dragged kicking and screaming into doing something to change. Labor's entire contribution to this debate is a pathetic attempt to remain relevant and reveals their claims of sincerity are about as genuine as a \$3 note.

I wish to address further remarks to the importance of victims' rights, in particular the use of victim impact statements. The bill ensures that no inference can be drawn that the absence of a victim impact statement implies the victim was not harmed by the offender. Such inferences are perverse and twist the truth. The bill will correct any intentionally or inadvertent use of this device to avoid responsibility on the part of the offender.

I now refer to further intentions regarding section 9 of Penalties and Sentences Act. The Sentencing Advisory Council has recommended additional reform, and I am keen to see this pursued. Section 9 of the Penalties and Sentences Act is the core piece of legislation that addresses mitigating and aggravating factors at sentence of an offender. This legislation was written in 1992 and is not in step with contemporary community expectations. It is well overdue to be overhauled. Our goal is not only to strike the correct balance for victims of offending but to put the rights of victims ahead of offenders. I am mindful of the time. These are long-awaited changes and they deserve the support of all members.

Debate, on motion of Mr Purdie, adjourned.

MOTION

No Confidence in Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.29 pm): I move—

That this House expresses no confidence in the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, could you pause for one moment. I want to remind the following members that they are still on warnings: the members for Miller, Murrumba, Kawana, Woodridge, Coomera, Callide, Logan, Mansfield and Everton. I am sorry to interrupt you, Leader of the Opposition, but I think it is important to remind members before this debate.

Mr MILES: I, for one, appreciate your reminder, Mr Acting Speaker.

For 321 days Queensland has endured chaos under the Minister for Youth Justice—almost a full year of dysfunction, almost a full year of failure. The minister has lost one director-general. She has lost three chiefs of staff—that is practically one every 100 days. She has lost 11 ministerial staff—that is almost one a month. Loyal LNP staff are walking away from her in droves. How can the minister expect to deliver the critical reform she has been tasked with with that rate of churn and burn? LNP sources say she is chaotic and erratic, that she yells and swears and hangs up on senior public servants.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, including members on my left, your leader is speaking. Order, members!

Mr MILES: When the first Making Queensland Safer Bill came before this House, the minister was missing in action. It amended the Youth Justice Act—her act, her responsibility. She did not even have carriage of the bill. It was handballed to the Attorney-General. Clearly, the Premier could not trust her with his signature laws.

She appointed as chair of the Expert Legal Panel an LNP aligned barrister. She has consistently refused to release that panel's advice, hiding it from Queenslanders. The minister's car was photographed parking in a disabled bay in Cairns, and when journalists asked her fair questions she accused them of doing Labor's bidding. She attacked their integrity. That is not openness and transparency. It is not the openness and transparency that was promised.

At Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, staff shortages have forced night mode for most of the year—young people locked down in night mode. There is still no youth justice workforce plan. There is no detail on the Cairns Youth Detention Centre, no answers on overcrowding and capacity. Service providers have been gagged by new guidelines. Experts have been silenced. Five prisoners escaped in just one month under this minister's watch. When the FASD screening program went to tender, she allowed Cairns to be excluded. One of the regions most in need was left out.

Taken one by one, these failures are serious. Taken together, they show a minister who is far out of her depth—a minister who cannot keep staff; a minister who cannot manage legislation; a minister who cannot plan for the future; a minister who cannot maintain basic standards of integrity or, indeed, courtesy in how one should deal with people.

For 321 days Queensland has had chaos instead of competence. A minister who loses that many senior staff in less than a year does not deserve the confidence of this House. A minister who hides expert advice does not deserve the confidence of this House. A minister who undermines journalists and parks in disabled spaces does not deserve the confidence of this House.

The case is clear: this House and the people of Queensland deserve better. Queenslanders want safety. They want stability. They want leadership. Instead, all they have is the member for Currumbin. For 321 days she has failed. For 321 days Queensland has paid the price.

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.35 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'That this House' be omitted and the following paragraphs inserted:

- '1. expresses confidence in the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services to continue lowering victim numbers.'

I am pleased to stand before this House and express my support of, and confidence in, the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support. What those opposite have outlined in their motion is that they do not like 10 months of delivery after 10 years of decline. In relation to the Crisafulli government and the Making Queensland Safer Laws that we introduced and passed in this House—not one tranche but two tranches—what those opposite cannot stand is that ministers on this side of the House work together. The four ministers responsible for lowering victim numbers are proud to be representing victims in this state and are proud to be working collegiately, cooperatively and collaboratively, unlike those opposite in their factions who do not speak to each other. The Attorney-General, the Minister for Police, the Minister for Youth Justice and me as the Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! Minister, please pause. Members, there is too much noise. Minister, you have the call.

Ms CAMM: What those opposite cannot understand is how we as a government are committed to working together. We heard from Queenslanders. We heard from victims of crime. The Leader of the Opposition talks about 'churn and burn'. Well, I can talk about churn and burn: the former youth justice ministers over there—churn and burn; the former child safety ministers over there—churn and burn. I can name them. The member for Waterford—

Ms Fentiman: I'm still here.

Ms CAMM: Yes, we will get to that. The stapler is about to come out. There is a reason some of those opposite may not be on the speaking list.

What those opposite do not understand is that the Public Service are so welcoming. They have welcomed the refreshed, energised leadership of the Minister for Youth Justice. They have welcomed the refreshed, transparent leadership of the Attorney-General. They have welcomed the leadership of

the Minister for Police and me—every minister on this side of the House—who treat the Public Service with respect and dignity. We do not lock them in cupboards. We do not throw staplers. We do not scream at them. We show respect. That is what we are bringing about as part of a new government.

The Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support can stand on her record proudly as a minister in the Crisafulli government. There has been a reduction in victim numbers in six months of 5.7 per cent.

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Inala, your interjections are not being taken.

Ms CAMM: Mr Acting Speaker, do you know what those opposite do not like? They do not like that we are succeeding. They do not like that there are green shoots. Those opposite watered down the laws and revel in victim numbers. They revel in stolen cars. They revel in break and enters. They revel in the increase in assaults. On this side of the House, we are proud of our record. We are proud of the action that the youth justice minister is taking.


As the Minister for Child Safety, I am proud to follow those failed five opposite who went through the revolving door of child safety ministers. I look forward to hearing the commission of inquiry's findings in relation to governance and the transparency of ministers. The Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and I are working very closely together to embed child safety officers with youth officers 24/7. We are running a pilot across this state, something those opposite could not do.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, order!

Ms CAMM: The Leader of the Opposition talked about screening programs for FASD. He talked about Cairns being most in need of services. He talked about the failure of those opposite and how they were not able to deliver. Where were they for the last decade when it came to the needs of young people with FASD? When we hear talk about safety, stability and leadership, that is what the Crisafulli government is delivering. The Leader of the Opposition is hanging onto his job by a thread. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not have the numbers. What we are delivering is lower victim numbers.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.40 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and oppose the amendment proposed by the opposition.

I say to the Minister for Child Safety that that speech is not going to stand the test of time. It is not going to age well. The Minister for Child Safety has leadership ambitions. Well, she has been set up by the current Premier, hasn't she, to get up and defend someone who is in an indefensible position. After 321 days of crisis and chaos in the youth justice minister's office, she simply cannot handle the pressure of that job. The pressure is immense because the Premier's own job depends on the Minister for Youth Justice delivering for Queenslanders. We know there is already panic in the government's ranks about the youth justice minister's capacity to deliver on the key performance indicator for this government: to reduce the number of victims of crime. We have already seen the Premier's blatant and cynical attempts to manipulate the way crime statistics are collated, presented and reported in Queensland. That is very clearly a vote of no confidence in the youth justice minister's ability to deliver.

We know from media reports that the minister cannot deliver a stable and functional ministerial office. Staff come and go, chiefs of staff are there one day and gone the next. Other staff members are yelled and sworn at. The minister flies off the handle at the drop of a hat. The minister hangs up on commissioners and directors-general when she cannot get what she wants. These are behaviours that speak of immaturity, incompetence and a flawed character. It is a harsh assessment, but sadly it is an assessment the minister invites through her own unacceptable behaviour.

The minister's poor behaviour exposes yet another failure and another false promise by the Premier. The Premier promised consequences for actions, but there have been no consequences for the youth justice minister's appalling actions. The Premier promised that his ministers would be held to high standards, especially when it came to their interactions with the Public Service. His own words as opposition leader now come back to haunt him. As opposition leader the Premier said—

A leader would step up and say that bullying and intimidation isn't on and would say 'I'm accepting responsibility' for it and apologise for all the people they employ who are directly accountable.

That is another promise by the Premier that has been broken. These are more empty, hollow words from the Premier that have no substance. The sorry saga of this minister behaving badly exposes the Premier yet again as a cynical retail politician who has no conviction and no integrity, a deceptive character whose words, whose promises, whose commitments mean absolutely nothing.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Premier, I hear your point of order. Member for Woodridge, would you withdraw, please.

Mr DICK: I withdraw. How about this for the most stunning double standard from the Premier. The Premier deliberately intervened in the appointment of an expert panel's preferred selection of an individual as Queensland's next Chief Health Officer, an action that has been referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission, yet the Premier refuses to take any action in relation to an underperforming minister whose behaviours and actions have clearly failed to meet even the lowest benchmarks of what is acceptable conduct for a minister of the state.

As the *Courier-Mail* has said, it is not a good message to send to the Public Service. But that is the way the Premier rolls. This is his government: jobs for mates; deals for donors; letting the LNP's right-wing ideologues block the appointment of eminently qualified experts to specialised roles; then protect a minister who is clearly out of her depth. The member for Currumbin is, quite simply, not a fit and proper person to be a minister of the state. The Premier needs to know that this—

Mrs GERBER: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to those comments and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, the member for Currumbin has taken personal offence.

Mr DICK: I withdraw. The Premier needs to know that this will not go away. This is not going away because we all know—Queenslanders know and the media knows—it is true. Why is it true? Because the Premier's own party is briefing against one of their own ministers. It is the Premier's own ministers and backbench, who have lived experience of the minister, who are briefing against her. This has not come from the Labor Party; this has come from the LNP. Queenslanders need to know the truth. The Premier has known about this for months and has done absolutely nothing. Queensland does not need a weatherman; it needs a leader and a Premier who will act. The future of the Premier and this minister are tied together.



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.45 pm): I am proud to speak on behalf of my good friend and close colleague the member for Currumbin, the Minister for Youth Justice, who is doing her job and doing it well. This is about two things: firstly, this is a distraction—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PURDIE: I will get to that in a minute. Secondly, this is what the Labor Party does. This is what those on the left do. When they lose the argument and they run out of points to debate, they go personal. This is exactly what this is about because it is a distraction. At estimates—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Police has a very loud voice but I could not hear him then.

Mr PURDIE: This is a distraction. I am here to support my colleague. As the member for Whitsunday pointed out, all ministers on this side have worked together extremely closely and tirelessly and the proof is in the pudding. At estimates the Police Commissioner came and told those opposite that victim numbers are down 5.7 per cent in 10 months under this youth justice minister. The number of serious repeat offenders in Queensland is down 17.5 per cent. Let's look at the stark contrast to those opposite. I would like to know why the opposition youth justice minister is not on the talking list, why she did not ask a question yesterday and why she cannot raise her head now.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, member for Whitsunday, member for Gaven and a couple of others over there too: stop your quarrelling across the chamber, please.

Mr PURDIE: Let's look at the contrast. I would like to know why the opposition shadow is not speaking. Those opposite who were youth justice ministers or attorneys-general watered down the law for 10 years. Unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences increased by about 150 per cent in 10 years when they were in government. That is about 15 per cent a year. In the first six months of this year compared to the first six months of last year it declined by 6.4 per cent, the largest decrease in a decade.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Order! Member for Bundamba and member for Pine Rivers, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr PURDIE: Similarly, unlawful entry, break and enters—another crime that we know is predominantly committed by youth—has dropped by 12 per cent after a 10-year increase of 60 per cent. It is not just the stats; it is about the victims of crime. Before Christmas the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and the Attorney-General wrote the Making Queensland Safer laws and essentially, as we committed to do, rewrote the Youth Justice Act to give police back the laws they took off them. It was tabled and passed before Christmas and it has yielded results. Those opposite came in here kicking and screaming because, as we know, half of them did not want to support it. Now they cannot comprehend that it is working so they are going personal on the minister.

It is working, and it is not just the statistics saying it is working. I read what was said in the paper today by a detective inspector in Townsville. The paper said—


The experienced officer said the seven SROs arrested in Townsville since the start of the operation remained in custody—

Listen to this next point, please. He said—

It's very noticeable; some nights we've had no cars stolen and then others times we have one that we can focus on and because our priority property crime is so short now we have the time to actually get out there and locate these people.

The youth justice minister is driving down the number of victims in this state. Under the watch of those opposite, that number increased year on year on year. They proudly watered down the laws. The shadow ministers over there with their heads down now who are not speaking on this motion and who did not ask a question yesterday proudly watered down the laws, and the results speak for themselves—not just from the quote of the senior police officer but from the statistics. For the first time in 10 years we are driving down crime. We will continue to focus on the things that matter to the people of Queensland. We said before the election that we had four priorities to address the crises left by those opposite, one of them being the youth crime crisis. We are not going to be distracted from that. We have a laser-like focus.

I want to acknowledge the youth justice minister, who has worked tirelessly since the election doing what we said we would do. She has made personal and professional sacrifices. She has qualifications as a former barrister and a Commonwealth prosecutor, and she has made sacrifices professionally to be here and to represent her community. She has made personal sacrifices as she has worked tirelessly around the clock to protect victims of crime in Queensland. We are putting victims of crime first, we are reducing the number of serious repeat offenders in Queensland, and we are reducing crime. That is due to the great work of this minister and this government. We will continue to do everything we can to right the wrongs of those opposite. I am happy to work alongside her.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (5.51 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Labor opposition leader. The member for Currumbin wants Queenslanders to believe it is Labor that called her 'erratic' or said that she was 'flying off the handle' or that she yells and swears at senior public servants, but let us be clear. We did not say those things; those words came from leaks from people sitting beside her. The question is: who might have that motive? The obvious place to look is the member for Oodgeroo, who we know is desperate to get on the front bench. Of course, you could not have too many women sitting in the cabinet so she has to go after one of the other women in the cabinet.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I need to hear the speaker.

Ms SCANLON: I wondered whether it was the member for Whitsunday, but we did see her get up and hear her try to defend the member for Currumbin for her actions. The track record of the member for Whitsunday is taking the portfolios of other ministers. The member for Warrego lost her portfolio at the drop of a hat. I was also interested in the amendment moved by the member for Whitsunday, which talks about victim numbers. The fact is that those victim numbers exclude breaches of domestic and family violence. It is pretty shameful that the minister got up and talked about those numbers but seemingly does not care about the very women and children she professes to represent.

There is one MP who I notice has been very quiet during this debate and very quiet during question time—in fact, he had his head in his phone during all of question time yesterday. That is the member for Bonney. His silence is very interesting. I know that the member for Bonney would find it particularly irritating that the once self-proclaimed tram enthusiast has been trumped by the member for Currumbin. He no doubt would also be upset about the fact that the member for Currumbin has leapfrogged him in the cabinet.

Ms Fentiman: Maybe he's the leak.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Waterford. I suspect he is the leaker. If he is, what is particularly galling is the fact that later in the day he was joking with the member for Currumbin—the very image of Brutus smiling as he sharpened his blade. Whoever it is who is leaking, the sharks are swarming. With friends like these, who needs enemies?

The member for Currumbin tries to say that this is all a distraction from her performance. The Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition have outlined a range of measures that demonstrate that the member for Currumbin is not fit for the job. In less than a year she set up a so-called independent Expert Legal Panel, but senior police officers and senior legal professionals were saying, 'Why would you go on this thing?' and then she refuses to release the panel's advice. When she was questioned by Tim Arvier, a very senior journalist, she apparently accused him of being some sort of Labor stooge. No wonder the Public Service decided to employ that very individual—to try to stop him from asking those questions of people like the member for Currumbin.

Who can forget the decision by the member for Currumbin to allow her car to be parked in a disabled parking bay? That has a real impact.

Mr Crisafulli: That is a real disgrace. Are you going to withdraw that?

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the Premier. Apparently, that is a real disgrace but not the conduct of his minister. There have been staff shortages at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre that are so dire they have had only three days this year when all of the units have not been in night mode. There is no timeline, no funding—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, pause for a moment. There are a lot of conversations going on in all corners of the chamber at the moment which is making it very difficult to hear what is going on. I would like more order, please, members.

Ms SCANLON: The new youth detention centre in Edmonton in North Queensland has been scrapped. She did not even consult her own colleagues. She seems to have a problem with Far North Queensland, because there is still no FASD funding up there, despite those crime rates. God help anyone who tries to criticise her, because she will just try to put a gag motion on you if you are a youth justice organisation. That sector then revolted. That is the only reason they had to change.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms SCANLON: The real hypocrisy from the man who continues to interject, because he clearly feels threatened, is that the Premier set very clear KPIs. He set very clear standards for his ministers. In fact, the member for Currumbin's own charter letter said that she must uphold 'courtesy and respect' in her conduct. After almost a year, we have chaos, leaks, erratic behaviour and a minister who has failed to meet the standard the Premier set. He set that benchmark; we did not set the benchmark for those opposite. The Premier set that benchmark and, as I suspect, what we will discover is that the Premier's word means absolutely nothing.

(Time expired)



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (5.56 pm): I rise in support of the amendment moved by the member for Whitsunday. In doing so, I want to reflect on the Leader of the Opposition's contribution—a contribution that went for five minutes and in which we heard about boards and bodies, timelines and team members, processes and procedures, but there was something that was missing. Victims were missing, and here we have it again. The Leader of the Opposition did not talk about the victims, and that remains the problem.

The Leader of the Opposition has a problem. I have been in the position he is in, but I was able to chart an alternative course. I have looked back at what I was doing in the first 12 months and the kinds of motions we were moving, and I want to remind those opposite of them. Here is one from six months in. It stated—

This House:

1. condemns the Labor government for losing control of youth crime and failing to keep families safe and secure; and
2. calls on the Labor government to restore the offence of breach of bail for youth offenders.

Here is another one, which was after eight months. It stated that the House—

... notes the Queenslanders who have spoken out to fix the health system:

- (a) Patricia from Mudgeeraba, who waited months for surgery to walk again;
- (b) Donald from Mount Gravatt, who is still waiting for his heart surgery—

Then we mentioned Jan from Mulgrave, Stephen from Loganlea—

Ms Grace: It's all about you.

Mr CRISAFULLI: No, it is about these people. I take the interjection. It is about them.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, you are warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I say this to the member for McConnel: it is about the people whom she said we were making up stories about. That is whom it is about.

Ms GRACE: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. It is about the people who the opposition said were 'making up stories'. It is about Trevor, Ron, Sue, Rob—all of those people, all of the victims. Under this minister, victim numbers have fallen by 5.7 per cent in the first six months. That is the KPI to consider—and there is more to go, because that is off such an incredibly high base and we are far from satisfied.


There are a few missing parts of this debate. The member for Bulimba, the shadow minister, is not on the speaking list and has not said anything. Why is that? The member for Algester has been very quiet. I wonder if during the member for Waterford's contribution there will be any discussion about office supplies. That is what we want to see today. What do we have in those opposite? There is a document called the Coaldrake review, and it shows what life was like for the Public Service—the culture of fear, of intimidation, of advisers—forget the advisers who were leaving—walking around like little generals, badgering.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members on my left, come to order.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Advisers badgering, bullying, intimidating—and it is in black and white. It is their record and they own it. Do people want to know one of the first things I said as leader to this team here? 'Go and treat the Public Service with respect. Go and walk the floors.' They have walked the floors. There are two bits of advice they get. One is: 'You are the first minister we have seen in a long, long time.' The second thing they are told is: 'Thank goodness we count again.' They do count. I say to every public servant in this state: you matter. If we are going to fix the youth crime crisis, the health crisis, the cost-of-living crisis and the housing crisis, every public servant needs to be part of that change. They are valued and respected.

I say to those opposite: do better, because there are people out there that matter, people who four years ago nearly to the day found a voice in an opposition, an opposition that cared about people, that charted a course on victims and doing something for them. I have never seen a worse start to an opposition in this place. They are rudderless. They are leaderless. They have a leader who, as the member for Whitsunday said, is not hanging by a thread; he is hanging by dental floss.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (6.02 pm): When I saw the Premier rise to speak to the amendment moved by the member for Whitsunday I thought, 'Oh, here we go. There will be a full-throated defence of the member for Currumbin. He is going to absolutely back in his youth justice minister.' I do not think he said one word about supporting the member for Currumbin. Does that not tell you everything you need to know about the future of the member for Currumbin?

An opposition member interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: That is exactly right. I take that interjection. The Premier was very clever, sending in the member for Whitsunday to do that full-throated defence and move that amendment, but the Premier could not actually bring himself to say one nice thing about the member for Currumbin—not one nice thing! I am absolutely astounded that in this House tonight—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Member for Waterford, I am sorry to interrupt you, but most of the noise in the chamber is coming from your own members. Order, members on my left.

Ms FENTIMAN: I cannot believe it. We have a motion of no confidence, which is a very serious motion to be moved in this place, and the Premier rises to speak on this motion and he cannot say one thing to defend his youth justice minister, the minister that he needs to keep him in the job. I think tonight we actually do not need to say any more on this motion because the Premier has said it all. In the five full minutes that he had to get up there and show the people of Queensland he has faith and confidence in his youth justice minister, he failed to do so. I do not think there is anything more that I can add, but I will.


What I have found really interesting this week is that the Minister for Youth Justice has come in here and claimed that Labor is attacking her and that we are only attacking her because we cannot attack her record. The hilarious thing about that is the attacks are coming from the LNP government. They are coming from her cabinet colleagues or perhaps some of those ambitious members on the backbench.

What we have seen to date from the member for Currumbin is that her leadership style appears, if we can believe what is coming from the LNP government and all of the leaks, to be similar to her driving style. This is a youth justice minister who proudly talks about failing her driving test nine times, and if you have not bothered to watch *Australia's Worst Driver* and the contribution from the member for Currumbin, I suggest you do so.

That is not the only test. There are many more. Shall we go through the list of nine fails that are on the member for Currumbin's ministerial record? They include: appointing an LNP-aligned barrister and spouse of an LNP staffer to chair the Expert Legal Panel; refusing to release the findings of the expert panel, despite stakeholders and victims calling for her to do so; and presiding over five prison escapes in one month—that is right, five prison escapes in one month. We have already heard about parking in a disabled parking bay in Cairns. There was the failure to address capacity issues at the new Cairns Youth Detention Centre. She palmed off the first Making Queensland Safer bill to the new Attorney-General, even though it amended the Youth Justice Act. She presided over staff shortages at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. She allowed new contracts with gag clauses for youth justice community organisations. Here we go—back to Campbell Newman! She has also failed to release a detailed youth justice workforce plan.

It is clear that she has lots of Queenslanders to apologise to for her incompetence and, clearly, plenty of traffic victims on the Gold Coast in the 2000s. That much is clear. It also seems there are 11 former ministerial staffers she needs to apologise to. Eleven staff have left in 321 days. That is an attrition rate of around one every 29 days. The fact that the Premier has not stood up to defend the youth justice minister or answer any questions in a media conference means that he is okay with all of this. He is setting the standard. He talks and talks about accountability but is found absolutely wanting.

(Time expired)

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (6.07 pm): I rise tonight to support the amendment moved by the member for Whitsunday. What we have seen today is a desperate act from the opposition leader, who would rather rewrite history than confront his party's record. I watched my community over the last decade be ignored when we were calling out to the Labor government to listen and recognise the torture we had to endure. This was a government that did nothing for over a decade. How dare the opposition come in here and attack our minister, who visited our region more times during and after the election than I ever saw their minister when they were in government. What we heard constantly from the former member for Thuringowa and his government was that we did not have a crime problem. He never had the ear of the minister like we have today.

Townsville has been a priority for this minister and this LNP government. The minister has driven a whole-of-system approach: strengthening laws, prioritising victims, holding offenders accountable, investing in real rehabilitation and lowering victim numbers. The results are there for all to see. Let's look at what has been delivered in just 10 months.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms MARR: Don't tell me about Townsville. I can tell you the pain. We suffered a lot under the Labor government, let me tell you. We were terrified in our houses, terrified in the streets and we had three MPs who not once—not once—stood up for our community. Not once! How dare you come in here and criticise us today. Absolute nonsense!

Let's look at what has been delivered in the last 10 months, shall we: tough new Adult Crime, Adult Time laws; a \$560 million investment in new early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs; \$50 million for Kickstarter programs, with \$10 million rolling out the door for round 1 and another \$5 million with round 2 now closed; \$225 million for Staying on Track; \$50 million for crime prevention schools with one in Townsville, I am proud to say; \$40 million for youth justice schools; \$80 million for circuit breaker sentencing; a statewide Victims of Crime Community Response Unit; statewide consultation on our nation-leading Victims Advocate Service—I am losing my breath, there is so much to say today—and the groundwork to restore stability at the Parole Board.

In just 10 months we have delivered landmark reforms to protect more victims sooner and to hold perpetrators to account. We promised to put victims first, and we have. In the first six months of 2025 we have seen the number of serious repeat youth offenders fall by 17 per cent and the number of victims fall by 5.7 per cent. It is very quiet over there now. Let's look at Labor's record, shall we? There were watered down youth laws. Townsville was the epicentre of crime. We were the first to cry out about the danger of what the Labor government did with no regard for consequences. We all remember the denial of the youth crime crisis, calling it a media beat-up. Please! Speaking of consequences, their changes to legislation meant there were no consequences. Crime increased and juvenile thugs pretty much owned our streets in Townsville and across Queensland. Under Labor, 91 per cent of kids were back in detention within 12 months—that is a great record for those opposite to sit with—and there were no prisons for a decade.

I stand with victims, who now have a voice; I stand with my community, which now has a voice; and I stand with the LNP Crisafulli government, which puts victims first and demands consequences for actions. That is the record of our minister. I stand with Queenslanders, who, after too many years of Labor's weak laws, can once again have confidence that their government is putting safety first. How? It is under the leadership of our Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. I am proud of all of our ministers, who work together on tough reforms for outcomes and consequences for actions being a priority. All of the members on this side of the House express confidence in the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services continuing to lower crime numbers.



Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (6.11 pm): I rise to support the no-confidence motion moved by the opposition leader with respect to the Minister for Corrective Services. I would have thought that if the government were so focused on looking after their member and amending the motion then all of the ministers would be put in charge of defending the Minister for Corrective Services, but what do we see? We see backbenchers defending the minister rather than her colleagues who sit with her around the cabinet table. You would have thought they would be up-front defending her.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: I take hubris—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause, member for Gladstone. Members, we are nearly there. Let's hear the member for Gladstone in an orderly fashion.

Mr BUTCHER: Under Minister Gerber's watch, Queensland's corrective services system has become an absolute laughing-stock and a ticking time bomb. The truth is stark: this minister has lost control. She has lost the support of her department and frontline services, and now she has lost the ability to keep inmates behind bars. Even her Youth Justice director-general ran away to another job. Despite his evidence at estimates, whistleblowers told the opposition that he wanted out. He could not stay there. There were five prison abscondments in one month in North Queensland. That is not a mistake; that is a pattern of dysfunction, negligence and outright failure as a minister.

Just when we thought this portfolio could not fall any further into chaos, we find out that prisoners have been absconding again—not to run for their lives but to run for a snack. That is right: reportedly, inmates from a low-security facility left custody to go and pick up some chicken. Did somebody say KFC? We all know that the member for Kawana loves chicken—he loves rats as well, I believe—but letting prisoners out for KFC is an absolute joke. Minister Gerber said absolutely nothing about it. Under this minister, security has become so lax that prisoners treat the perimeter like a drive-through. While officers are exhausted and their facilities are at capacity, we have prisoners walking out for a Zinger box. This is not corrective services; it is a comedy hour.

Let's be clear: these escapes are not isolated. They are evidence of an overstretched and mismanaged system. On 7 May this year two inmates absconded from Townsville. On 27 and 29 May two absconded from Palen Creek and on 1 June a prisoner made a break on a tractor, like it was a scene from *The Fast and the Furious*. On top of that, I am advised that during the minister's estimates

hearing she would have known of another prisoner absconding that very day. Reports suggest that at 4 pm on the day of the hearing it was discovered that a prisoner had absconded. The minister was surrounded by the commissioner and other QCS officials until eight o'clock that night. Worse still, at around 7.30 that night the minister took a dixer from the member for Thuringowa on low-security abscondment—while this prisoner was still on the run, and the community did not even know yet. There was no notice of the latest absconder until QCS issued a statement later that night—conveniently, after the minister had finished her hearings. Isn't that strange?

A government member: Deliberately delayed.


Mr BUTCHER: Deliberately delayed; I take that interjection. This is not embarrassing; this is dangerous. The public expects prisoners to be kept in prisons, not out buying chicken or joy-riding through regional Queensland on a tractor.

The fact that the minister has refused to front up every time to take responsibility and explain these failures is an absolute disgrace. This is the same minister who is accused of bullying and intimidating departmental officers, who are routinely abused by her and whose director-general had to flee to another job. It is the same minister who left Far North Queensland in limbo after scrapping the proposed youth detention centre in Edmonton, providing no budget, no site and no reasons. It is the same minister who is presiding over the most ridiculous and reckless period of security breaches in Queensland's correctional history. This is not just a minister who has lost control of her portfolio; this is a minister who has lost the plot. We are asking for a plan to fix it. All we get is spin and slogans from the minister.

Mrs GERBER: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those bullying comments and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member, the minister has taken personal offence. Would you withdraw, please?

Mr BUTCHER: I withdraw. Frontline staff deserve better, the community deserves better and this parliament should demand better. That is exactly why we have moved this motion tonight.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (6.17 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the member for Whitsunday. The member for Gladstone spent a lot of time talking about chicken, but I think the only chickens here are the Labor Party, who refused to do anything about youth crime for a decade. The vote of no confidence that we will talk about now is the vote of no confidence that Queenslanders gave the Labor Party when they showed Labor the door in '24.

It is no secret that crime is one of the biggest issues facing Far North Queensland, and those opposite said it was a media beat-up. Those opposite said, 'Let's make detention a last resort,' and now we have serious repeat youth offenders in our regions, especially in Far North Queensland. Crime impacts our region in Far North Queensland daily. Hardworking people have their cars stolen. Small businesses suffer countless acts of theft, vandalism and loss of business due to crime. Kids have their bikes stolen, their scooters stolen and their mobile phones stolen on their way to school. Women have their bags and their cars stolen while they are simply walking to their cars with their groceries.

Those opposite do not like talking about crime. Those opposite believe that youth crime was a media beat-up. Those opposite, including the member for Cairns, voted for detention to be a last resort. The member for Cairns could not even turn up to a youth crime crisis rally that was held in Cairns. Our community was hurting significantly after a husband and wife had the most horrific crime occur to them in the middle of the night. That still has our community hurting. Who turned up with me? The member for Mulgrave. Who turned up for me? The Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. Who turned up for me and the community of Cairns? The Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety. Who turned up from that side? No-one.

The Far North community is hurting. My community loudly shares this pain and my community has been begging for things to change. These pleas fell on deaf ears with the previous Labor government. Unlike those opposite, our government is listening, acting and delivering and we have been doing so for the last 10 months. During my short 10 months in this chamber I have spoken many times about crime impacting Cairns. It is the biggest thing hurting our region. During the election we said we would put through the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time before Christmas. We then put through the second tranche as well.

Last year the member for Cairns said he did not think we should be locking up kids. A decade ago he voted for detention to be a last resort, and that is why we have the crime crisis in Cairns and the crime epidemic. We are still a long way from getting this crime crisis under control. We will continue to support early intervention, rehabilitation and diversion programs, but not at the cost of community safety and not at the cost of justice for victims.


Those opposite would rather talk about staffing drama than talk about falling victim numbers because they cannot attack the results. It shows that, when the LNP are delivering reform, the opposition tries to distract with gossip. They are raising claims about staff turnover not because they care about staff—they seriously do not because they have ruined so many small businesses—but because they want to undermine someone who is getting real outcomes. If they cannot challenge the record, they try to challenge the person. Attacking someone's credibility is often the fallback.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members. The level of noise is too high—from all sides.

Ms JAMES: Attacking someone's credibility is often the fallback when you cannot attack their results. Before entering parliament the minister was a lawyer. She worked as a federal prosecutor. She has a strong understanding of legal, justice and safety issues. Her important role combines youth justice, victims' rights and corrective services, and she has one of the heaviest portfolios with high demands and high stakes. Her ministerial charter letter explicitly tasks her with delivering on restoring community safety, putting victims front and centre, ensuring early intervention and rehabilitation, and enacting laws that align with the community's expectations of consequences for actions and protecting our community.

This side of the chamber works every single day to restore safety for Queenslanders. Those opposite cannot challenge the record, so they are trying to challenge the person. That tells us we are well and truly on track. We have been doing lots. In Cairns I am really excited about the \$40 million youth justice schools we are introducing—one in Cairns and one in South-East Queensland. We have a \$560 million investment in new early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs. I cannot wait to see those delivered in Cairns.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (6.22 pm): We have just come from Cairns. Let me tell honourable members that we had an event with over 150 people there and crime is not getting any better in Cairns. That is not what they are telling us. Members opposite can come in here and pontificate all they like about the achievements in the last 10 months, but that is not what they are saying on the ground. They can say it over and over again, but that is not occurring.

What we are debating here is the record of Australia's worst driver, who highlighted her shameful driving history, the now Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support. She has the worst and shameful record of 11 staff resignations in 10 months. What do we get from the Premier? 'There is nothing to see here.' Not one of the members opposite who has spoken confirmed this happened. Not one of them has shown any remorse. Not one of them has said whether or not the leaks coming from over there that 11 staff—including three chiefs of staff—have left are actually true, and that is unacceptable. The staff exodus has been attributed to the minister's erratic and chaotic behaviour including causing chaos and discord in the office, shouting and swearing at staff including public servants, angry outbursts and flying off the handle, and hanging up on her director-general and the Police Commissioner if data was not immediately provided. One government source is concerned that the minister is not able to regulate her emotions.

Mrs GERBER: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those deeply offensive and untrue comments and I ask the member to withdraw.

Ms GRACE: I withdraw. This is hardly in keeping with the minister's charter letter to uphold the values of the government and that staff be treated with the highest level of courtesy and respect. If the minister cannot keep her own behaviour or office under control and cannot seem to even run a respectful ministerial office, what example is that setting for the youth of today?


The minister is always keen to claim the moral high ground in the support of victims, but what about the industrial workplace victims she is leaving behind after only 10 months in office, or don't these victims count? What about reports that her DG went looking to be moved when his time with the minister was up, described by a senior source with knowledge of the negotiations? In 321 days of chaos and crisis the minister has lost one DG and three chiefs of staff. They were not exactly new political operatives either, but experienced, long-term, ex-LNP staffers and even an ex-MP who would be able to take more than a bit of plain speaking but not the serious disrespectful conduct of this minister. That is an attrition rate of one staff member every 29 days and it is shameful.

I do not care what they say opposite. They can talk all they like, but it is shameful and that is why we are debating the motion tonight. This is serious. This behaviour is unacceptable and indefensible. I notice that the Premier had no ability to defend the action. The workers deserve a toxicity-free workplace with the right to a safe and respectful working environment. She should be displaying the same conduct as that demanded by young people in youth detention. Anything less is sending the wrong message and reeks of double standards. What do we get from the police minister? 'This is a distraction.' It is a big distraction all right when you do not even have a respectful workplace.

The Premier cannot stand up and pretend to be leading a transparent government and immediately dismiss the reports as gossip and not answer questions to confirm the number of staff who have left the minister's office. Has he counselled the minister? Has the minister received the obviously much needed management training, or are his higher standards of ministerial accountability just another cheap political election slogan? He sent his knight in white armour, his political ally, into the office but he basically came in here and condoned the behaviour. 'Nothing to see here.'

There is no transparency in the government. There is not even the ability to get expert legal advice, run the office properly or fix up an act when she forgot to add some serious offences and it was left to the Attorney-General to fix. The minister is clearly not up to the job both in terms of her shameful behaviour and her inability to run a safe and toxicity-free workplace. There is no remorse, no admission and no apology. She has to go.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (6.27 pm): There was absolutely no substance from the member for McConnell in that speech. I rise to support the amended motion and the youth justice minister in this state, someone who is working extremely hard. I note there is a gallery full of youth and I welcome you to the Queensland parliament because—

Mr Purdie: Queensland is a safer place.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—Queensland is a safer place for you because of the Crisafulli government. After 10 years of decline, 10 years of decay, 10 years of crime rates going through the roof, guess what happened? On 26 October last year the Crisafulli government was elected to govern in this state after 10 years.

I ask the youths in the gallery: do you know what those opposite did? They changed the crime laws. When you heard from your friends, your teachers and your neighbours that their houses were getting broken into and that their cars were getting stolen, that was because the former Labor government changed the laws with regard to crime. It weakened the laws, and guess what happened, kids? We came to government and the Premier was elected on a platform of reducing victims in this state. We have the first victims minister that Queensland has ever had, and the Minister for Victim Support has assisted by reducing victim numbers. In the last 10 months we have seen victim numbers go down 5.7 per cent. Kids, I will say this: more needs to be done. We have only been in government for 10 months, but it has been 10 months of delivery. What did we hear from those opposite? Attacks, attacks, attacks because they have nothing, and there was silence from those opposite who chose not to speak.

I want to go back to crime for a minute, because the member for McConnell was gloating—can you believe it?—about the fact that crime is still an issue in Cairns. Member for McConnell, 100 per cent it is still an issue, and the member for Currumbin and all of us on this side of the House are working exceedingly hard—

Mr Minnikin: To tidy up their mess.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—to tidy up their mess, after a decade.

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, and that is because we are working together. Kids, it is hard to hear over the rabble, but, seriously, I am going—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Attorney-General, just pause for a moment. There is a lot of chatter across the chamber. I ask for silence so that the member can be heard.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The member for McConnell started attacking a 19-year-old's driving record. I have three daughters and I have done however many hours in the car trying to teach them to drive. Guess what? It was actually Dick Johnson who had to teach the member for Currumbin to drive.

I wish I had Dick Johnson to teach my daughters to drive. Good on Dicky Johnson. Well done—a 19-year-old! I would challenge anyone to teach a 19-year-old how to drive. Why would those opposite go back 19 years ago? The member for Waterford did not want to talk about her record. She was silent on her record. The other person who is very—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause for a moment, member for Nanango. All members—all sides—that is disorderly. There is one minute and five seconds to go, Attorney-General.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Not only was the member for Waterford silent on some of those issues, where is the shadow minister? Where is the shadow minister for youth justice? Who is the shadow minister? I know it was disorderly to put the stapler up there, but, Mr Acting Speaker, I could not bring a cupboard into the chamber so we are just going to have to imagine what it is like to be locked in a cupboard. I could not bring the cupboard in, so we are going to have to imagine having a staff member in your ministerial office getting locked in a cupboard. No wonder the shadow minister is being silent. The Crisafulli government is acting and working on behalf of the people of Queensland and the Minister for Youth Justice is working incredibly hard to fix up the debacle of those opposite.

Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.

AYES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 35:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

Pair: Hutton, Furner.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Division: Question put—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Please ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 35:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

Pair: Hutton, Furner.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House—

1. expresses confidence in the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services to continue lowering victim numbers.


Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, before we break for dinner, I advise all members on warnings that after dinner your warnings will have expired. I would also like to welcome to the gallery the former members for the following electorates: Kallangur, Trevor Ruthenberg; Ferny Grove, Dale Shuttleworth; Pine Rivers, Seath Holswich; and Capalaba, Steve Davies.

Sitting suspended from 6.40 pm to 7.40 pm.

**PENALTIES AND SENTENCES (SEXUAL OFFENCES) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading**

Resumed from p. 2823, on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.41 pm): I am pleased to contribute to the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Crisafulli government is continuing to deliver on our promises, doing what we said we would, and we are continuing to put victims first. This bill is yet another example of our government's proactive approach to supporting victims of crime who for so long had been failed and were ignored by the former Miles Labor government. I want to congratulate the Attorney-General and fellow victims ministers in particular on the important reforms that the Crisafulli government has driven and also the Attorney-General's responsiveness to QSAC's report into sentencing for sexual assault and rape offences in Queensland.

As outlined in this debate, four of QSAC's recommendations relate to specific amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act. The Crisafulli government has responded swiftly and appropriately and this bill implements each of these recommendations, ensuring sentencing guidelines reflect community expectations and, most importantly, protect victim-survivors. Sentences should consider if sexual offences are committed against a vulnerable child, sentences should consider harm to a victim, being a 'good bloke' should not be a stock-standard defence for a sexual offender, and victims should be able to choose whether they would like to provide a statement to the court without fearing their decision will benefit the offender.

Despite this responsive, common-sense, calm and methodical approach, the Labor opposition has remained obsessed with political stunts. One would think after almost 11 months in opposition they might have taken time to reflect, to listen to victims and to listen to Queenslanders. Instead they remain as out of touch as ever. Firstly, they have tried to claim credit for these changes, pushing their own sloppy amendments through the House for a media grab. They had a decade to put victims first, but instead they watered down our youth justice laws, sat on their hands as victims of crime rates grew and when it comes to survivors of rape or sexual assault those opposite did nothing. They have failed in meeting their duty of care when it came to the DNA lab debacle that the Attorney-General is working each and every day to sort out.

Labor tried to rush this bill through the House, blocking victims from the opportunity to have their say via the committee process. After being thrown out of government, not listening to victims, it is truly shocking to see that 11 months later they have not changed, nor learned or listened to the voice of victims. But it does not stop there. In their statement of reservation the Labor opposition criticised the Crisafulli government for not providing a written response to QSAC's recommendations. A report was delivered to a brand new government in December with the recommendations being implemented through legislation introduced six months later. We are moving at a pace and in a way that is supporting victim-survivors. Those opposite do not hold a record that has any credibility. In particular, when we look back at their record, the Reportable Conduct Scheme has been nothing but a debacle.

I turn now to the bill's changes to the working with children act. These amendments largely go towards cleaning up Labor's errors. As described by the QFCC—

These changes, while procedural in nature, are vital for legal clarity and operational consistency.

...

and represents a significant step forward in enhancing Queensland's working with children check framework.

Interestingly, the QFCC principal commissioner also notes that these amendments will implement recommendations in its 2017 review of the blue card system. He stated—

Sitting here being prepared to speak to a report that the institution I now lead conducted in 2017 represents a very significant timeframe for a government response to act on recommendations.


Mr Twyford also stated—

it is important that government responses to a review are timely.

There you go: we have the Crisafulli government being responsive to QSAC and to the QFCC's recommendations made in 2017.

For the last five years I have spoken many times in this House on behalf of constituents of many MPs who have reached out to me, when I was formerly the shadow minister and now as the minister, to tell me of their experience with the justice system and their experience with the DNA lab debacle. I heard from those opposite in this debate that justice delayed is justice denied. What I cannot comprehend is that those opposite come in and rewrite history. Justice has still been delayed and has still been denied for hundreds of rape victims: those who could not adequately access a rape kit because they were so outdated or there was no-one adequately trained in a health service to perform a forensic examination. They sat in the middle of the DNA debacle and did nothing that was in the interests of victims or rape survivors, some of those victims are children and people living with a disability.

For the record, the Crisafulli government is taking action to make sure victims have access to justice and that justice can be served. Only a Crisafulli government can put victims first and clean up the mess that has been left by the Labor government. Never will I miss an opportunity to remind members of this House, victim-survivors and those in our community of the women that I have sat with who have physical, psychological and emotional lifelong damage and are still awaiting justice because of the failures of those opposite. I commend the Attorney-General on her work and her efforts, not just in this bill but in the entire justice system, and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (7.47 pm): I rise to contribute to the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering for Queenslanders a fair and efficient justice system. At the heart of this system are the rights of victims. When you put victims first you make our communities safer. After a decade of Labor's decline and weak laws it is no wonder that Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. Those members on this side of the House recognise and acknowledge the harm experienced by victims of crime and how Queenslanders were ignored by the former Miles Labor government and the former Palaszczuk Labor government. This bill reflects our unwavering commitment to Queensland's victims and the fresh start that they deserve.

The bill introduces key reforms that get to the core of victims' rights. It introduces new sentencing provisions that better reflect community expectations. In doing so it implements the recommendations of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council report into sentencing for sexual assault and rape offences in Queensland. Among their 28 recommendations were four amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 which are captured in the bill. The first is a new statutory aggravating factor. Sexual offending against children is among the most heinous crimes that can be committed. The bill reflects the expectation of Queenslanders by making amendments to require the courts to consider the age of victims aged 16 and 17 as an aggravating factor when sentencing for sexual assault or rape. It indicates to the court that the sentences for these offences should be higher when committed against a child. It is another example of how the Crisafulli government is putting victims first, especially child victims who unfortunately have to live with these things for the rest of their lives. This is so important because they are so vulnerable and they cannot defend themselves.


The second amendment relates to good-character evidence. This bill delivers important overdue reforms to good-character evidence when sentencing sexual offenders. The bill clarifies that the courts should only consider, for instance, good-character references if it is relevant to the offender's prospects of rehabilitation or risk of reoffending. It means that this type of evidence can only be taken into account by the court at sentencing where it is relevant to the offender's prospects of rehabilitation or risk of reoffending. Even if considered relevant, a court can choose not to mitigate the sentence based on the offender's good character at its discretion, having regard to the nature of the offence and how serious the offence was. Under our laws, a sexual offender will not be able to rely on evidence that they are a 'good bloke' because of references or the involvement they have had with community. They have to make sure that any restricted evidence directly relates to their prospects of rehabilitation or risk of reoffending, which are appropriate factors for the sentencing judge to consider. Queensland is the first jurisdiction to restrict good-character evidence in this way, reflecting significant and landmark changes to the sentencing framework. I commend the Attorney-General, Deb Frecklington, for bringing this forward and having that first for Queensland.

A further amendment relates to the recognition of harm to victims. The bill expands on the purpose of sentencing to include recognition of the harm done by the offender to the victim. That is particularly important, because the harm done to the victim may not come out for quite some time. We know that harm can be profound, with potentially lifelong impacts, particularly for children, who are

vulnerable and impressionable. While the Labor government ignored victims, we are putting them first by making sure the court can impose a sentence with the purpose of recognising the impact of the offending on the victim and the harm that it caused.

The fourth amendment relates to the victim impact statement. The bill clarifies that the court cannot infer from the absence of a victim impact statement or other details of harm that the victim has not been harmed by an offender. This is an important change that supports all victims in their right to choose whether or not to provide a victim impact statement to the court. Again, we are putting victims first and at the heart of our reforms, and we are working to improve the sentencing processes for them. That is absolutely at the heart of our government.

I would like to thank all of those who contributed to the committee process. I especially thank the victims of crime who had the courage to come forward and talk about their situations, which can be incredibly traumatic for them. We should commend them for what they have done. We in the Crisafulli LNP government hear them and we will continue to act for them. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I am pleased to support the bill.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.53 pm): I rise to address the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. At the outset, I acknowledge the harm experienced by victims of the type of offending that this bill seeks to address. These are important reforms that will better protect Queenslanders. I acknowledge the work of the Attorney-General and the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council.

The former chair of the Sentencing Advisory Council, Judge John Robertson, lives in Buderim. We frequently discuss the disparity that exists in relation to sentences for white-collar type crimes and sentences for sexual offending. Something that has vexed me for many years is that an individual may get 15 years for fraud, which may be justified, but frequently an individual will get a lesser penalty for offences of the nature that we are seeking to address in this bill. It is my view that sexual offences are the most heinous of crimes, particularly those against a child. I want to acknowledge that this bill seeks to improve the sentencing framework for those offenders who are found guilty of sexual assault and rape, in particular of children.

The new statutory aggravating factor is appropriate for sexual offending against a 16- or 17-year-old. They are children in the eyes of the law and they should be dealt with in that way. It is my view that sentences should be higher when these offences are committed against a child. My view is that they should be higher for all offending but most certainly when committed against a child. This bill seeks to address that.

The good-character or 'good bloke' defence has been dealt with extensively in the debate. I think the majority of the public would accept that good people do not rape people. Courts should not consider good-character evidence in relation to mitigating circumstances for offending but only, as is articulated in this bill, where it relates to an individual's risk of reoffending or chance of rehabilitation. Importantly, there is also provision within the proposed legislation for the court to choose not to mitigate the sentence even if there are mitigating circumstances in relation to character that relate to rehabilitation or risk. This reflects the fact that for far too long those defences have been used to lessen the sentences of those who seek to do the harm that this bill seeks to address.

Equally importantly, the bill recognises the harm caused to victims, and that will be considered in sentencing to a greater extent than previously. We know that this type of offending has lifelong impacts, particularly on children. In the past this House has heard harrowing stories from members in this place, and I am sure all members of parliament have had constituents come to them to tell their stories, as I certainly have. While I do not have personal experience, I can only imagine the impact that would have on an individual across their life.

Importantly, this bill clarifies that courts cannot infer from the lack of a victim statement that there was no harm or lesser harm. That will support victims in their right to choose whether or not they provide a victim impact statement. Courts should reasonably be able to recognise that fact. That is an important initiative.

In this debate we have heard considerable discourse from those opposite about how they wanted to fast-track their amendments. They brought in similar amendments that they tried to push through the House. There are shortfalls with those amendments. I acknowledge the calm, considered and methodical approach taken by the Attorney-General. Had the parliament supported the amendments


proposed by those opposite, the good-character amendments to section 11 would have prevented courts from increasing a sentence because of a person's good character—for example, where an individual's standing in the community was used to facilitate the offending. I am confident that is a shortfall that communities do not want to see implemented.

Similarly, the proposed changes to section 9 would have been limited to only recognising the harm caused to any surviving victim of an offence. It would not have required or enabled a court to impose a sentence that expressly recognised the harm caused to a victim of unlawful killing by an offender, including harm caused to them immediately before their death. I think that is a fundamental failure. It talks to importance of the parliamentary process and taking a calm, considered and methodical approach to passing legislation in this place. The committee process does take some time, but it is an important process where the Queensland public can have their say. Perhaps more importantly, it allows us to contest the provisions that are proposed. Had we rushed through and supported the opposition's flawed legislation, we would have a lesser solution than will be implemented after this legislation is passed. To that end, I support this legislation.

The legislation also makes changes to the blue card system, as we have heard, and to the penalties for falsely representing a government agency. It is appropriate that an individual be sentenced for up to three years in prison for instances where they have falsely represented government agencies. It is important that our communities have confidence in government, and those who seek to misrepresent the fact that they are a government official puts that at risk. As others have noted, this legislation also makes changes to the Crimes at Sea Act 2001 to reflect consequential amendments as a result of changes to Commonwealth legislation.

This is a calm, considered and methodical bill, and I will be supporting it. I acknowledge the work of the Attorney, who is working proactively—as all ministers in the government are—to reduce the number of victims in Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House, I call on the Attorney-General to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (8.00 pm), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to this debate on the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill implements a number of the recommendations from the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's report into sentencing for rape and sexual assault as well as makes other legislative amendments—delivering on a number of important criminal justice reforms to ensure the criminal justice system remains contemporary and responsive to community expectations. It delivers on the Crisafulli government's ongoing and unwavering commitment to a fair and efficient justice system that prioritises the rights of victims and makes our communities safer.

Those opposite have come into this House and had the gall to lecture this government on failing to support victims of crime. When those opposite were in government for 10 years, they sat idly by and watched victims of crime remain unassisted and Queenslanders witnessed an escalation in crime right across this state like no other state in Australia had seen. Under Labor, offenders were free to walk the streets while victims were left helpless and without support. Under Labor, crime rates ran rampant.

Let me remind those opposite exactly what life was like when they were in power. Under Labor, Queenslanders suffered a decade of decline. Between 2015 and 2024, sexual assault doubled under Labor, robbery doubled under Labor, motor vehicle theft doubled under Labor, unlawful entry with intent increased by 50 per cent under Labor, and other theft increased by 50 per cent under Labor. The fact is, the Crisafulli government is the only government which is putting victims at the centre of our justice system.

This bill is representative of our approach to supporting victims and restoring confidence and trust in the justice system. It is only the Crisafulli government which is making Queensland safer, and we are starting to see the early effects of our policies, with victim numbers down 5.7 per cent in the first eight months of 2025. I am pleased that the Labor opposition are supportive of the Crisafulli government's bill, recognising that we are delivering important changes to the people of Queensland after a decade of decline under their watch.

I will now address some of the matters raised by honourable members during this debate, and I will start by talking about the outstanding recommendations. The opposition has come into this House and criticised the government for not responding to the important work of the council in the *Ripple effect*

report, but this is simply not true. When I introduced this important bill to the parliament I informed the House that there was more to be done and that the government was addressing the council's recommendations in a staged manner. The shadow attorney-general misled the House yesterday when she said that it was the first time she had publicly heard any commentary about the fact that there are other reforms and that this is the first phase. Nearly all members of the opposition who spoke to the bill yesterday said that we have only responded to those four recommendations. I understand that opposition is hard, but they have to get their facts right and pay attention.

As I noted when I introduced the bill, there will be a holistic review of section 9 of the PSA and the victim impact statement regime, as the council recommended. I thank the member for Hinchinbrook for his suggestion that we consult with the Office of the Victims' Commissioner in the course of reviewing the victim impact statement regime. I am pleased to advise that I wrote to the former victims' commissioner in early 2025 to advise that we will be consulting with their office in due course as part of that review. It is anticipated that these reviews may lead to further changes to ensure the Crisafulli government continues to deliver meaningful reforms to the criminal justice system for victims of crime and the broader Queensland community.

This is how good government works: through a thoughtful, careful, calm and methodical approach to reform, with the ultimate goal of putting victims first. I will not stand here and tolerate a lecture from those opposite on how to respond to expert reports. Since taking over the opposition benches, it seems that Labor have found their high horse, but let me remind this House and those in the Labor Party of the reports they failed to even respond to when they were in government during their decade of decline.

Let's start with the QSAC report titled *The '80 per cent rule': the serious violent offences scheme in the Penalties and Sentences Act*. This report considered the operation of the Serious Violent Offences Scheme and identified a number of issues with the operation and the application of the SVO scheme. This was a review that was referred to QSAC by the member for Waterford when she was the attorney-general in 2021. What did Labor do when the report was handed to them in 2022? Did they respond specifically to each of the more than 20 recommendations, as has been demanded of the government by those opposite now? Did they respond to each of the more than 20 recommendations that were made by QSAC? No, they did not. As of September last year they were 'still considering' every single recommendation. Not even one was responded to. That is 2½ years of no action. We are not surprised.

The former government also committed to implementing all 13 recommendations from another of the council's reports—*Penalties for assaults on public officers*—which was completed in 2021. That report investigated penalties for assaults on public officers in the course of their employment—something we would assume would be important. We are talking about critical frontline staff who protect Queenslanders and keep our state safe each and every day: policemen, policewomen, paramedics, detention staff, medical and hospital workers and transport officers. Guess how many of those recommendations, which are about trying to protect our public servants, did the former Labor government implement in the three years that the member for Waterford was the attorney-general? There was just one! Just one recommendation from a report into protecting our public servants was implemented in three years. These are just two examples of where Labor failed to act on expert reports and recommendations that were given to them. They are coming in here on their high horse, and it is so different now they are in opposition.

I could, of course, go on with the report into modernising Queensland's asset confiscation regime or the serious and organised crimes review, but I am quite sure the House gets my point. I can probably guess why Labor did not act on QSAC's serious and organised crime review: they did not want their mates in the CFMEU to be caught up in tougher offences and penalties. The fact is Labor simply sat on those reports, leaving them to gather dust rather than responding to them in a holistic, meaningful, calm and methodical way, which is the way of the Crisafulli government.

Now the reborn Labor opposition suddenly claim they have found their moral compass and dare to come in here and criticise a government that is actually implementing recommendations from a QSAC investigation. Unlike the former Labor government, we are a government that does what we said we were going to do.

I want to turn now to the timing of the introduction of this bill. I note that those opposite think it is funny. I honestly have no clue how those opposite ran cabinet, but they obviously had no respect for their public servants if they thought they could get a cabinet submission written, including a bill, within eight hours.

I note that those opposite have alleged that the amendments giving effect to the council recommendations were only prepared in response to the amendments they proposed to move. I take personal offence at the comments of the member for Springwood, who had the audacity to call me lazy—after the former Labor government failed victims for more than a decade. As the members of the opposition are acutely aware, properly considering the council report, which is more than 800 pages long, and identifying recommendations that may be suitable for a more rapid implementation and those that require more detailed consideration takes time. We are still waiting on the responses from the former Labor government on many QSAC reports.

Progressing the recommendations identified as suitable for the first tranche of reforms through the drafting and consultation process takes time. It was important that the government also sought the views of stakeholders, including our legal stakeholders, and victim support and advocacy services on the draft bill. This is something that those opposite would find strange. Imagine going out and consulting on a draft bill! Refinements were made based on stakeholder feedback. We did not just get our stakeholders in a room, lock the door, throw a draft bill at them and say, 'Bang! You're consulted.' That is not our way. Doing consultation properly and talking to stakeholders takes time. We respect them and want their feedback. Preparing the associated material such as the explanatory notes and the statement of compatibility takes time.

Whilst I appreciate that those opposite think we are so efficient and so impressive that we could prepare, consult on and finalise the whole bill in two days, it is simply not the case. I very much want to thank all of the hardworking public servants who have worked on this bill. Thank you for your consideration. We do not treat you in the manner the former government did. We are committed to listening and getting things right.

I cannot remember on how many bills the opposition mucked up their amendments. I know that in the justice portfolio for every bill I have stood here and said to those opposite, 'You have to do your homework. I know that opposition is hard. Do your homework and get it right the first time.' Rushing amendments that have not been properly considered may create unintended consequences and actually be harmful to victims—something we saw with Labor's botched amendments. We are committed to taking the time to get things right.

Members of the opposition have also suggested that the committee inquiry was unnecessary. Again, go figure about consultation! Goodness me. Apparently, according to the opposition, we are deliberately delaying the PSA provisions. I am quite sure we will get a chance to talk about those. While important, the comprehensive program of consultation undertaken by the council does not replace the valuable role of the parliamentary committee process in considering this important legislation. It is important to note that the council conducted consultation to obtain feedback to inform the development of the recommendations but did not consult on the actual recommendations, the draft bill or the subsequent reforms proposed by the bill.

The contention that the committee process was unnecessary because the council undertook consultation once again simply misunderstands the different roles those processes and bodies play. The committee inquiry process gives stakeholders an opportunity to share their views on specific amendments adopted to implement the council's recommendations. The committee process allows the divergent views of stakeholders to be properly considered and may, as the shadow attorney-general acknowledged in her contribution, provide insight into possible areas for future reform. We value the feedback provided by stakeholders in relation to this bill. We value those organisations that have been advocating for change. We value victims sharing their experiences. We value the committee process in relation to this bill. I thank the member for Nicklin, the member for Toohey, the member for Capalaba, the member for Thuringowa and the other members for their work in considering this bill.

Another repeated criticism from Labor in connection with the bill is its commencement date. I am quite sure the shadow attorney-general has advised that she will move an amendment during consideration in detail of the bill to alter the commencement date for the amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act. I advised at the start of this debate—and I had an opportunity to discuss this with a crossbench member, and I very much appreciated their positive feedback—why the commencement date of the PSA reforms is sensible and necessary, to ensure these important changes are properly understood and adopted by the judiciary and legal profession.

There is so much more to say. The statement of reservation to the committee report notes that in 2023-24 a certain number of rapes and attempted rapes were recorded. A number of those opposite have cited this number and somehow suggested that purported delays in the commencement of the bill

are therefore affecting 75 victims a week. I think it is important to correct this assertion so the House is not misled. In 2023-24, there were 319 sentenced cases involving rape and sexual assault, or approximately six cases a week. That is six cases too many. Make no mistake: any victim is one victim too many and it is important to accurately describe the operation and effects of the criminal justice system.

The council noted the importance of providing victims with the right information, when they need it, which is why it is so important victims are provided with time to understand the changes. It is breathtaking that we had to sit in here and listen to those opposite try to say that they have woken up after 10 years and are worried about sexual assault and rape victims. We have had to implement a contract worth \$50 million to export our rape and sexual assault DNA kits to America to fix up Labor's DNA debacle to protect victims of crime. Victims of crime and sexual assault have been waiting over 400 days because of the botched actions of the Labor government. That is what we are concerned about.

That is why we will continue to bring our stakeholders, the courts and the heads of jurisdiction with us. We will not ride roughshod over the legal system, like those opposite did. We will listen and do what we have to do to support victims in this system to make sure there is faster, easier, more accessible access to justice in this great state. That is exactly what we are doing here today with this bill. It is very important.

I appreciate the member for Noosa's suggestion that the bill should be amended to include a post-introductory statutory review and the member for Maiwar's comments that this legislation should be continuously reviewed and monitored by government. The Crisafulli government continues to continuously review the effectiveness of all sentencing legislation. For this reason it is unnecessary to enshrine this as a statutory review with a two- or a three-year wait time. If these reforms are not working as intended, we will review them.

Once again, we are a government committed to delivering for Queensland, for all of Queensland. In conclusion, I would like to thank all honourable members for their contributions during the debate. I note the opposition has indicated its support for the reforms and will support the passage of the bill. I thank them for recognising the importance of the Crisafulli government's reforms in offering their support for this to become law. I commend the bill to the House.

Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—



Ms SCANLON (8.21 pm): I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 4, line 8—

omit.

I table the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, explanatory notes to Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendment [1264].

Tabled paper: Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendment [1265].

The Crisafulli government stand here today claiming that they care about victims, yet their own bill makes them wait until November. That is 165 days, when we offered bipartisan support to pass these laws immediately and those opposite refused. We were willing to concede on our own amendments and actually vote on the government's bill weeks ago. We were willing to bypass the committee process to do that in good faith, to stand with victims of sexual assault and rape. Those opposite could not even allow us to do that.

It made me interested, particularly given some of the Attorney-General's remarks, about their track record of delivering reforms on assent. I heard some of the accusations by the Attorney-General about the fact that the courts could not possibly be ready for these reforms. That is despite the fact that they have run roughshod over the courts on a range of other reforms including—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Ms Fentiman: It wasn't directed at you personally.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: She said 'she' and then used the word 'roughshod'.

Ms Fentiman: No, she didn't—those opposite.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Check the record.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members! Attorney-General, resume your seat, please.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw, Mr Acting Speaker. The Making Queensland Safer Act, the first round of those prescribed offences to which adult penalties applied, commenced upon assent. Apparently it was fine for the judiciary and lawyers to be okay with those reforms coming in immediately then—

Ms Fentiman: Let's rewrite the Youth Justice Act.

Ms SCANLON:—rewriting almost the entire Youth Justice Act. The Brisbane Olympics and Paralympics Games act could apparently come into effect upon assent which completely repealed the Path to Treaty process. The second tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws that they stuffed up first time—again, those prescribed offences could come into effect, despite the fact that we did not see the independent so-called expert legal advice. Yet this piece of reform has a publicly available report done by experts—over 800 pages, which the Attorney-General basically said was too long for her to read and that is why it took over six months for us to see these reforms. Then we had the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act. Then they came in here and made last-minute changes to Forensic Science Queensland. Those reforms again came into effect upon assent. Save me the criticism about the fact that the judiciary and the courts cannot possibly move at the speed that this parliament outlines.

We all agree that good-character references and the people who perpetrate crimes against children should be dealt with more seriously. We all agree with that. Every day that we wait, another woman who is the subject of rape or sexual assault is not afforded these protections in law. That is the decision those opposite are making by not agreeing to the sensible amendment that we put forward. We are willing to vote on the government's bill. We just want it to come into effect now. The fact that those opposite are so stubborn that they cannot agree with us is telling that they are more interested in politics than in victims.

(Time expired)

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, I am advised you may have used some unparliamentary language in your contribution. Would you withdraw that, please?

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Acting Speaker, what a great job you are doing today! Thank you. Isn't it absolutely breathtaking to hear the shadow attorney-general criticise the Making Queensland Safer Laws, criticise bringing in Forensic Science Queensland—

Ms SCANLON: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. I ask her to withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: In making a point of order, could you address your comments through the chair and not refer to people in the first person, member for Gaven. Thank you for withdrawing, Attorney-General.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The gall of those opposite to come in here and actually criticise changes to the Forensic Science Queensland Act—

Ms Fentiman: That's exactly the opposite of what she said. She is criticising the fact that you made those urgent and not this. I'm not sure if you can comprehend it, but that was not her point!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It has been a long night, Mr Acting Speaker. Oops!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Nanango and member for Waterford, there will be no quarrelling across the chamber.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Oh, no. I am getting an example of how someone was treated in the office when they were clicking at someone. That is a bit of respect right there, isn't it? It is just lovely! The gall of those opposite to come in here and talk about rape and sexual assault victims. Over 400 days—the gall of the former attorney-general, who presided over the biggest failure of the justice system that Queensland has ever seen, to come in here and lecture us about victim-survivors of crime, sexual assaults and rapes. Are you kidding me! If it were not so serious, it would be laughable—and I am quite sure half of them over there are laughing. Forensic Science Queensland was a complete basket case under the former attorney-general, and then the former health minister and then the next attorney-general. What were they doing about rape victims and victims of sexual assault?

Ms Grace: There are mistakes happening right now under you too—right now.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The gall—seriously.

Ms Grace: Right now. Admit it. Read the *Courier-Mail*.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Like I say, Mr Acting Speaker, it has been a long night.

Mr Nicholls: Opposition is tough love, isn't it?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am going to take that interjection from the honourable the health minister. Opposition is tough. It is long. It is hard.

Ms Grace: You should know. You were here for 10 years.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Correct, I was.

Ms Grace: You should know—and you lost an election as a leader.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for McConnell!

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: More than happy, yes.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Attorney-General and member for McConnell! Attorney-General, we will have order during consideration in detail. Attorney-General, I will ask you to remain relevant to the clause.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes, but I am not going to stand here and be verballed about my record in this House. I have been in opposition for 10 years and, yes, I was the leader of the opposition—

An opposition member: The worst.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: When they have nothing, they get personal. They cannot handle the fact that the Crisafulli government is delivering for victims. They cannot handle the fact that they are in opposition. Wake up and smell the roses. Learn something. Listen to people. Listen to the victims of crime. Listen to the stakeholders you refuse to listen to. Listen to those people. Seriously!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members on my left, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr Langbroek: Arrogant!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is so arrogant; I take that interjection. They are proud to sit over there and criticise a member of parliament because they have worked hard on behalf of their constituents for over 10 years in opposition. Do you know what, guys? You actually could do something from opposition if you knew how to work and did not rely on people in the back who constantly get your amendments wrong. Again I say it is completely and utterly breathtaking.

As I outlined in my second reading speech, changes to the Penalties and Sentences Act are significant. We know that these reforms will impact nearly every sentence where there is a victim of crime. Those opposite once again want to rush through changes. I know how tough opposition is, so I will give the shadow attorney-general a little shout-out: in this bill the shadow got the right amendment to the right clause. That helped; that is an improvement.

We know there are real and compelling reasons why a fixed date is a sensible and necessary measure to ensure these important changes are properly understood by all parties and applied by the courts. A fixed date for commencement provides certainty for the court and legal practitioners regarding when the new sentencing purposes and principles will come into effect. We know this is important, as it ensures that legal practitioners have sufficient time to prepare submissions which might need to be rewritten to address the changes and that the court applies the rules that are in effect on the day the sentencing proceeds.

This is important for a number of reasons. It is critical that the prosecution has sufficient time to ensure that information provided to the court appropriately reflects the new sentencing practices, including drawing the court's attention to the new statutory aggravating factor applying to offenders convicted of rape or sexual assault against a child and ensuring their Crown prosecutors and legal practitioners are aware of the changes and able to provide accurate and appropriate advice to the court on the use of good-character evidence.

The defence also needs sufficient time to ensure that any good-character evidence proposed to be used under the new restrictions is appropriately directed to the offender's prospects of rehabilitation and risk of reoffending. This may require the author of the reference letter to rewrite it and additional time for defence counsel to speak with the defendant about the upcoming legislative changes and to make them aware that the use of this evidence will be—thankfully—and should be restricted.

The court also needs to ensure that sentencing decisions are made under the new requirements to ensure the intent of sentencing reforms is realised. There is no point in making changes if the court does not apply them. The council also found that victims of rape and sexual assault are dissatisfied with the sufficiency of information provided to them regarding the sentencing process as well as their experiences engaging with the criminal sentencing process. The council noted the importance of providing victims with the right information when they need it.

How hypocritical for the Labor opposition to try to rush through these changes—supposedly by them in the name of support for victims—when we know that victims want enhanced information sharing and better communication from all stakeholders involved in the criminal justice system. It is critical that the Crisafulli government continues to support victims of crime by ensuring there is sufficient time for the prosecution service and victim support agencies to make victims of sexual offences aware of the changes and to ensure they understand them before the matter proceeds to sentence. For us in the Crisafulli government, support for victims is not lip-service. We will continue to listen to victims to ensure we are delivering reforms that prioritise them.

Something those opposite may have also missed is that there are also technical concerns that, if the changes were to commence on assent as Labor proposes, as the date of assent cannot be accurately predicted, under the Acts Interpretation Act 1954 if a provision of an act commences on a day then it retrospectively applies to commence at the beginning of that day. This means the changes come into effect at midnight, irrespective of when assent may have been given during the day. This means that sentencing decisions made in the morning under the current rules may be compromised—

A government member: Oh, come on!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to take that interjection. I am trying to assist those opposite in relation to how it would work.

A government member interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If the member wants to interject, he should be in his own seat.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you for your assistance, member for Gladstone. I will remind all members that if they want to interject and have their interjection taken then the orderly way to do that is to be in their own seat.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I was explaining the Acts Interpretation Act—Law 101. I think I might have done that a few times in this House. I will say it again. It means that sentencing decisions that are made in the morning under the current rules may be compromised when assent is given in the afternoon, and the new rules are therefore to be retrospectively applied to all proceedings heard earlier in the day. A fixed commencement date is not a delay; it is a considered approach to ensure the reforms are effective and that sentences are—

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to take the interjection, whatever it was—imposed according to the correct laws—

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to stand here all night and talk about this.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members on my left!

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Lockyer!

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Attorney-General, direct your comments through the chair, please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will; thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. Therefore, a fixed commencement date is not a delay; it is a considered approach to ensure the reforms are effective and that sentences are imposed according to the correct laws that are in effect on the day of the proceedings.

While Labor is always quick to criticise us for taking a reasonable, considered, measured approach to the implementation of these important reforms, I remind those opposite that they also passed legislation that had impacts on victims of crime with a delayed commencement. That was probably because they were advised by good public servants and the good people of the Department of Justice for the reasons I was just talking about. Seriously, the hypocrisy! Labor introduced a number of bills into this House. One that is very close to my heart is the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Act.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The House has agreed to a time limit for this debate, which makes the time available for consideration in detail limited. I submit to you that the response to the amendment the Attorney-General is delivering has now become tedious and repetitious. Mr Acting Speaker, you have been furnished with the names of a number of other members who wish to speak to this clause, and I would ask you to take that into consideration in terms of encouraging the Attorney-General to either wrap up her contribution or ensure it is not tedious.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Attorney-General is being very responsive to the amendment that has been moved. She is being very relevant.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I am trying to make my point of order, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Leader of the House, I can hear you but just wait for a moment. Members to my left, I am taking a point of order. I could hear the Leader of the House but it would assist the House if you would remain silent while I am listening to points of order, please.

Dr ROWAN: With respect to the Manager of Opposition Business's point of order, I would submit to you, Mr Acting Speaker, that the Attorney-General is being responsive and relevant to the amendment that has been moved by the member for Gaven. She is providing additional and substantive information in relation to the matters that have been canvassed.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, I will seek some advice from the table. Leader of the House and Manager of Opposition Business, thank you for your points of order. I have been listening to the Attorney-General. I will make the point, firstly, that the standing and sessional orders, as agreed to by the House, do not place any limit on the Attorney-General's response to the amendment moved by the member for Gaven. The Attorney-General is required by standing orders to remain relevant to the clause. I have been listening carefully. This is the first point of order that has been taken on relevance. Whilst some members may argue that some of the contributions by the Attorney-General were not relevant, I have been listening and the Attorney-General has largely been relevant. I will give her the call with the strong encouragement that she remain relevant to the clause, which is about the commencement of the bill, and the amendment moved by the member for Gaven and no other issues.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Acting Speaker, thank you for that because it is important. The shadow attorney-general spent her contribution in relation to her amendment criticising the government about not accepting her clause, which would mean the bill would come into effect on assent. What I am doing to refute that is talking about the number of bills in this House where the former government actually did the same thing.

I think it is important for members of this House, particularly the newer members, to consider the proper debate in this House. There was the coercive control bill, which we are all very proud of, and the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023. Mr Acting Speaker, I wonder if you know when that legislation came into effect and whether Labor made sure that on and from the date of assent all new amendments for those bills came into full force. We are talking about crimes relating to domestic violence—crimes that you would think those opposite who are accusing us of—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 236. These references by the Attorney-General have no bearing on this bill or this amendment. She has nothing further to contribute. There are several members of the opposition who would like to make a contribution to this amendment.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. Attorney-General, I have been listening to your comments. My guidance is that you should contribute directly to the commencement date of this bill and the impact of the amendment moved by the member for Gaven, and you should remain relevant to the clause.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. It is very important that we consider this very serious issue. We know that in the past in this House there were many bills of the former Labor government where we stood here—

Ms Grace: It's not relevant.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is relevant because we did exactly the same thing to give consideration—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Attorney-General clearly has no intention of being relevant. Therefore, under the standing orders, I move—

That the Attorney-General be not further heard.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 35:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pair: Hutton, Furner.

Resolved in the negative.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: With that, I conclude.

Mr HUNT (Nicklin—LNP) (8.51 pm): I start by thanking the Attorney-General for that fulsome explanation of why this amendment is a bad idea. Indeed, she did speak of new members here, not necessarily experienced in law, who have to understand the intricacies of this bill and the intricacies of these amendments. It was a very fulsome response by the Attorney-General, and I appreciate that because the changes to the Penalties and Sentences Act before us are significant. That is why the Crisafulli government is focused on ensuring our criminal justice system is properly prepared for these reforms. This stands in stark contrast to those opposite who tried to ram through their botched

amendments in the very same week the bill was introduced, leaving courts, practitioners and victims in the lurch. After a decade of inaction, suddenly everything is urgent. Suddenly, to try to remain politically relevant, they clutch at some urgency clauses, pretending that victims are a priority, pretending that victims are important and pretending that this clause is urgent.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock, please. Members, I am struggling to hear the member for Nicklin. I would like to hear what he has to say.

Mr HUNT: As the House knows, I spent 33 years in the Police Service. Indeed, we have six former police officers on this side of the House: the member for Mundingburra, the member for Mackay, the member for Burdekin—

Ms Boyd: This is not relevant.

Mr HUNT: We are talking about experience here. Of course, the police minister was a detective. All six of us were drawn into this place to support victims of crime. We will not be lectured to by those opposite about urgency and about supporting victims because, after a decade of decline under Labor, everything is suddenly urgent to them. Unlike Labor, we will not spring complex changes on the legal profession for political points with no time to prepare. Instead, we have committed to a fixed commencement date. This provides certainty. Legal practitioners know when the new sentencing purposes and principles take effect and the courts know which rules apply on the day of sentencing. This time is not wasted. It is critical. Prosecutors must prepare to draw the court's attention to the new statutory aggravating factor for offenders convicted of rape or sexual assault against a child. In the short time I have left, I will just point out that the Crisafulli government will not risk victims' trust or the integrity of our courts by rushing for political points. We are delivering a careful, orderly and effective reform, something the opposition should have done in the decade when they had a chance.

Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (8.54 pm): I rise to support the amendment put by the shadow minister. This is about ensuring that those who are having to sit through court next week and the week after are not being impacted by such delays. We hear the government say that this is about getting it right. Let's face it, the Attorney-General basically re-read what she said yesterday about the defence needing 'sufficient preparatory time to ensure that any good-character evidence proposed'—for this, the defence needs time to prepare.

I am asking for a victim of crime, who will be sitting there in court next week, having finally reached the end of the justice system, to have this protection. Why can't they have the protection? All of a sudden, it is about time to prepare; that magistrates need time to prepare specifically for when dealing with character evidence.

Let's be quite clear—and as the Attorney-General pointed out—there will not be hundreds of cases coming before the court next week or next month; these will be the few that actually get to this point, where a victim will get their day in court and will get to see justice done. However, as of next week, as of next month, they are still going to have to hear 'good bloke' evidence.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Macalister, pause, please. Order, members! Member for Whitsunday and member for Lytton, cease your quarrelling across the chamber. All other members do likewise, please.

Mrs McMAHON: For those victims who have finally got to the end of the criminal justice system, those very few who have actually seen a conviction of guilt against their perpetrator and who are at the point where sentencing can happen, they are still going to have to hear 'good bloke' evidence next week.

We have heard all those contributions about how this is reprehensible. Yes, it is; we agree. These are good laws. They need to be in place. But tell me why they can't be in place next week to protect a victim. Can anyone opposite look a victim in the eye next week and say, 'No, he was a good bloke, that's legit'? That is what we are talking about. We are talking about—

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock, please. Member for Lockyer, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, we are not going to finish this debate with arguments across the chamber. It will be through the chair.

Mrs McMAHON: We are talking about an assent date for when this will apply in court. Good-character evidence, 'good bloke' evidence is going to be valid next week because of a delay. I am not interested in a history lesson. I am interested in those victims next week and those members opposite looking them in the eye and saying, 'No, they are a good bloke.'

(Time expired)

Mr VORSTER (Burleigh—LNP) (8.58 pm): It was quite interesting to hear the shadow attorney-general move this amendment. Long may she remain the shadow attorney-general, not only for the sake of the opposition leader, but for the sake of victims across Queensland because we know that the moment that the other side have anything to do with legislation, they land firmly on the side of the perpetrators and never on that of the victims. During the substantive part of this debate, we had the member for Macalister stand up and say she supported this bill apparently, but argued it would do nothing. How strange then to have her impassioned contribution today—

Mrs McMAHON: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The amendment is to the assent date, not to the substantive part of the bill.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, that is a valid point of order. Speak to the commencement and the amendment moved by the member for Gaven, please.

Mr VORSTER: Absolutely. Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

A government member: What does the amendment say?

Mr VORSTER: I will take that interjection because I do know what I am talking about. I am talking about victims and their right to have legislation that meets their needs. The problem with commencement on assent, which the opposition want to prosecute, is that it does not furnish any prosecutor enough time to prepare their case to defend the rights of the victim. Every moment that the opposition has an opportunity to touch legislation, they want to rush it, they want to botch it and they—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh—

Mrs McMahon interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Macalister, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Burleigh, I have asked you to resume your seat because, under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Lytton!

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Lytton!

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Lytton!

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Lytton!

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Lytton! Member for Lytton, you are warned under the standing orders. I think I called you to order maybe five times. Please, members. The time for the examination of this part of the bill is complete, as per the order of the House. I will now put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill, without further amendment or debate.

Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.

AYES, 35:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

NOES, 50:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Hutton, Furner.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Ms Scanlon) negatived.

Question put—That clauses 2 to 20 and schedule 1, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 20 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

Question put—That the bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.07 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Hospitals, Ramping



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (9.07 pm): Ambulance ramping in Queensland has hit an historic high. Nearly one in two patients—47.8 per cent—are waiting outside our major hospitals longer than the clinically safe time of 30 minutes. That is far worse than what the LNP themselves once called a health crisis back when they were pointing fingers from opposition. Now the crisis is of their own making.

Premier Crisafulli and his health minister promised that ramping would be under 30 per cent, but less than a year into their term it has blown out to nearly 50 per cent—record highs, a record failure and another broken promise. Why? Because this government scrapped Labor's fully funded \$18 billion hospital expansion program—2,200 desperately needed beds across Queensland. Their so-called Hospital Rescue Plan is nothing but an LNP hospital cuts plan in disguise, with no certainty about when new beds will be delivered, which facilities will be built or how they will be funded.


At QEII and the PA—the hospitals my constituents rely on the most—the reality is clear. Labor initiated, funded and commenced the \$619 million QEII expansion—more than 100 new beds, new theatres and a multistorey car park. Labor initiated, funded and commenced the \$748 million PA upgrade—more beds and new cancer and kidney services.

The only reason the Crisafulli government and Minister Nicholls did not block these expansions indefinitely, as they did with Prince Charles, Redcliffe, Coomera, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns, is that they were already too far advanced, but still the LNP has delayed them, creating doubt about what will

be delivered and when. Meanwhile ramping is at breaking point. QEII, sadly and disgracefully, has the worst rate in Queensland: 70.6 per cent of patients ramped beyond 30 minutes. The PA is at 55.8 per cent.

While our hospitals buckle, the Crisafulli government cuts hours at the Mount Gravatt nurse-led clinic that Labor established to ease pressure on these EDs. Locals praise it. It provides care which is quick, efficient and free. Under this government its hours have been slashed, forcing patients straight back into QEII and PA waiting rooms. Further, the government has axed pill testing, against the advice of every major medical body. The AMA, the RACGP and the Pharmacy Guild all say that pill testing saves lives. Ending it means more overdoses, more preventable tragedies and more people in already overcrowded emergency departments—playing to the far right. The contrast could not be clearer. Labor expands hospitals; the LNP cuts them. Labor delivers beds and services, and the LNP are nothing more than excuses.

Redcliffe Hospital

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (9.11 pm): I rise tonight to speak about the incredible clinicians and staff who work at Redcliffe Hospital. Last week I represented the health minister, Tim Nicholls, at the Redcliffe Hospital Staff Excellence Awards and was honoured to see a range of awards presented such as the Values in Action Award, presented to the Wellbeing Team, and the Excellence in Care Award, presented to CN Barbara Williams for her work in supporting families with the difficult decision around organ donation.


I also want to thank Executive Director Cang Dang for his remarkable work in leading the redesign process since the Sam Sangster review highlighted the extensive issues with Labor's flawed design and budget blowouts. The Labor opposition are showing more interest in data in 10 months than they did in 10 years, with the member for Bancroft adding to the scare campaign with a performance data analysis. Given that the member likes data so much, let me correct the record.

The latest median wait time to see a specialist at Redcliffe Hospital is 22 days, which is less than the 30-day wait we inherited and nowhere near the some 2,000 days that the member quoted last night. Patients were waiting longer under Labor. If they had not voted for change they would have continued waiting longer, given Labor's failed expansion of the hospital that had been delayed by at least two years with over 100 per cent cost blowout. Labor's plans for Redcliffe Hospital had no room for paediatric outpatients, no mortuary, no training facilities, no concern for staff safety and no plan for a culturally significant tree on the site. That is what happens when you rush for headlines over proper clinician informed planning.

The independent Sangster review highlighted multiple issues, and the executive and clinicians have welcomed the time to go back to the drawing board and redesign a hospital that is truly fit for purpose and culturally appropriate, meeting the growing demands of our community. When spending over a billion dollars of taxpayers' money you want to get the design and the services right, not waste the opportunity to build a hospital that is fit for purpose.

It is the LNP Crisafulli government that is saving the Redcliffe Hospital expansion through our significant Hospital Rescue Plan. Our \$18.5 billion investment right across Queensland is the first credible plan to deliver the hospitals that Queenslanders need. I want to put on the record my thanks to Minister Tim Nicholls for all his support at the Redcliffe Hospital and for delivering for Queenslanders.


Parliamentary Friends of Road Safety; Road Deaths

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.14 pm): It was an honour to co-chair the very first Parliamentary Friends of Road Safety alongside my co-chair, Russell Field, in the last parliamentary sitting week. Sadly, in the three short weeks since our event we have reached another tragic milestone—over 200 lives lost on our roads. We have surged way past that to 219. I understand that we are now over 10 fatalities higher than at the same time last year. It is shocking and it is tragic. I am reluctant to talk about data today because we in this House all know what data actually is. It is people and it is families ripped apart by split-second decisions or sometimes by ongoing poor driver behaviour choices, but it is families who will forevermore be missing someone special from their Christmas Day celebrations—people like Judy Lindsay's daughter Hayley, whose life was tragically taken by a drunk driver. It beggars belief that in just the few short weeks since I saw Judy at the launch we have lost 20 more lives on our roads. That is 20 Hayleys and 20 families left behind that will never be the same.

Despite cars getting smarter and road safety standards improving, vulnerable road users like cyclists and pedestrians are comprising more and more fatalities each year. This is especially heartbreaking and in my community we have wonderful advocacy groups like Brisbane West Bicycle User Group that are determined to shine a light on how cars getting bigger can expose vulnerable road users to even more risk. My community also has the Centenary Motorway where crashes are incredibly common and the anecdotal evidence I hear from my community is that tailgating is a major cause of some of these. In recent years we have seen a large number of penalties handed out for speeding, mobile phone use, drinking and drug driving, but I know from my conversations with local police how challenging they find it to issue infringements for the offence of following too closely.

I am absolutely delighted that at our Parliamentary Friends of Road Safety event there was an announcement made about research into tailgating that is going to be happening. According to parliamentary research I have previously commissioned, jurisdictions that do track tailgating or following too closely do see it fairly frequently as a contributing factor in fatalities. This research in Queensland could be a significant breakthrough in lowering the road fatality rate and I am very excited as a result to see the outcome. Today I want to not only acknowledge the work that many people have already done to lower our road fatalities but also say clearly that it is still nowhere near good enough. We must recognise that we cannot just accept the number of lives we lose each year as the price of driving on our roads.


Lakeland, Inderbitzin Family Enterprise

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (9.17 pm): Lakeland is a valley in the southern end of my wonderful electorate of Cook. With some of the most fertile soils in the country and favourable weather conditions, Lakeland is Queensland's northern most food bowl—and a food bowl it is with bananas, avocados, melons and many other fruits grown in abundance. From a largely forgotten farming area 30 years ago, Lakeland is today at the forefront of food production. The area has a number of innovative and progressive growers bringing world-changing technology and farming practices to Lakeland, and none more so than the Inderbitzin family. Peter Inderbitzin and his brother, Tom, came to Lakeland in the eighties and immediately recognised its potential. Frances joined Peter soon after and together they built a future for their children and now their grandchildren. This third-generation farming family has turned its several farms into highly productive, fully automated enterprises generating highly valuable foods and employing hundreds of people.

Their Red Valley banana operation has the only cableway fruit delivery system in Australia and it has taken composting to the next level. However, the jewel in the crown of the Inderbitzin family enterprise is the recently opened mushroom factory. Bringing the latest technology from Europe, this mushroom factory is the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. Being one hectare in area, the factory boasts fully integrated and climate control systems producing a variety of boutique mushrooms that guarantee quality. These mushrooms are produced entirely within the factory free of chemicals and pollutants ever present in so many other sources.

The Premier and I were privileged to participate in the celebration of the official opening and witness firsthand the production of this truly remarkable product. As the Premier observed cutting the ribbon, 'If you want to see Queenslanders who are committed to the future of this great state, you need look no further than this family here in Lakeland.' I congratulate this dynamic family and the Red Valley crew.

Cairns Electorate, Projects

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (9.20 pm): Recently the member for Barron River proudly declared it was an honour to have her name on a plaque at the new multipurpose hall at Redlynch State School. She claimed it was a reminder that her hard work was paying off. There was no mention of the benefit to the kids; it was all about her. Really? Let us be clear: that hall was planned, budgeted and built because of funding secured by the former Labor member for Barron River, Craig Crawford. It was a Labor government initiative from start to finish. The member tells us she is just getting warmed up. If that is the case, what is next? What fresh projects has her government announced for the Barron River electorate? So far all we have seen are full-page ads advertising the fact that they are building a new bridge—no mention of the fact that half of it is paid for by federal Labor.

We see LNP members cutting ribbons on Labor projects while trying to tell Queenslanders that Labor did nothing. It is simply astounding and people are talking about it. It is not just the hall in Redlynch; the Access Community Housing Company initiative recently opened in Cairns was another

Labor government initiative. We saw the member for Cook open the Labor funded health facility in Cow Bay which was organised by a Labor government. We saw the member for Mulgrave at the opening of the new women's health hub in Edmonton and the new youth residential rehab centre, both Labor initiatives. We even saw the Minister for Child Safety at the new Manoora Neighbourhood Centre—again a Labor initiative. The exciting women's AFL recently held in Cairns was as a result of a Labor government. This so-called inaction is not only keeping the LNP members in the Far North very busy; it reflects something far more concerning: being honest with your community.

Meanwhile, on 25 March the Premier's office announced the Cairns Western Arterial Road project as part of Delivering 2032 and Beyond. Since then we have heard absolutely nothing—crickets! No progress, no plan and not one cent in the budget. If the member for Barron River is really warming up, perhaps she could start by telling her community what is happening with this road project. The truth is that the people of Cairns know who delivered these projects, and the fact that the LNP claim them as theirs and will not even acknowledge the reality says more about them than anything else. When will this government's so-called fresh start for Far North Queensland actually begin? From where we sit, the LNP are opening completed Labor projects and renaming Labor initiatives while cancelling and postponing important infrastructure work like the much needed four surgical theatres at Cairns Base Hospital and the Cairns Western Arterial Road.

Redlands, Events



Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (9.23 pm): We have so much to celebrate in the Redlands. First, I say a big 'well done' to the students of Cleveland State School on their production of one of my favourite musicals, *Matilda Jr.* The cast and crew showed incredible courage and determination to produce the show, but, of course, a special shout-out must go to all of the teachers and parents who put in so much work to make it possible. Students, I will quote the most well known song from the show: you are not revolting children at all. In fact, you are smart, confident stars who have shown impressive teamwork.

I would also like to congratulate the Mater auxiliary at Redlands for their quiet and diligent efforts to fundraise for even better equipment and amenities for patients at that hospital. The work of the auxiliary at their recent trivia night produced a great night out for everybody, but it also produced a great fundraising result. It ultimately funded a \$47,700 cooling scalp cap for patients who are being treated for cancer. It massively improves comfort for patients undergoing treatment. In many cases it preserves the hair and it helps to ease a difficult time for people who are undergoing their treatment. To the president of the auxiliary, Lorraine Furness, and to her beautiful team of quiet achievers: ladies, you deliver year in and year out. I am not the only one who has noticed your impact, though. Congratulations, ladies, on your nomination in the Mater People Awards. What an excellent recognition of your commitment to the community of the Redlands.

Finally, I wish to share some good news for the arts community on North Stradbroke Island. For seven years, the Straddie Arts and Pottery Club have been desperately trying to get clarity on the tenure of the premises they have occupied for decades, going round and round between the council and the state about the status of the land while the building in which they operate, desperately in need of capital investment, declined in condition. To the 324 people who signed the petition on this matter, I say thank you. I want them to know that I dug deep into the land tenure documents and advocated on their behalf to get the outcome they need. The state government has cleared the way for council to issue the long lease that they have been hoping to have for so long. It was a niche and messy land tenure issue, but I am pleased to say that I have it sorted for them. What Labor refused to get done in seven years, I am pleased to say we have managed to get sorted in just a few months of first visiting that club. I hope this gives them the confidence they need to plan for the future of this important place for creativity and connection, particularly between the women of the island, and start the work needed to give the facility the upgrade it deserves.

Multiculturalism




Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (9.25 pm): On 31 August, across our country we saw marches that sought to amplify dangerous white supremacist messaging. What was so disturbing was that people were willing to march alongside neo-Nazis, people who openly spread hate and division. It was not just about a rally; it was about misinformation deliberately spread to stoke fear. We heard false claims about immigration rates when the truth is clear: migration is essential to our economic prosperity

and as a state we have absolutely valued our multiculturalism. Right now in this country there are more job vacancies than unemployed people. Our businesses, hospitals and schools all rely on skilled migrants, international students and hardworking families that choose to make Australia their home.

It does not help when we have coalition members in the Australian Senate spreading more misinformation. Senator Price's suggestion that the government was favouring Indian migrants to boost Labor's vote was not just wrong; it was disgraceful and hurtful. It took the leader of the Liberal Party, Sussan Ley, eight days to finally apologise to the community. It was absolutely disgraceful. The truth is that when the LNP play politics with race they do not just divide communities; they weaken our country. I ask: why hasn't the state LNP taken a stand against these marches? Why haven't they called out this extremism because silence in the face of hate is not leadership.

It is not good enough. Communities like mine in Logan deserve more. They deserve real leadership. They deserve leaders who are proud of our diversity. Let us not forget that at the LNP's recent state conference they backed a motion to repeal Queensland's hate crimes—crimes that we worked for with leaders in the multicultural community. That is what the LNP stands for. Those laws protect people from being treated unfairly because of their race and religion. The reality is that behind closed doors they are working to drag Queensland backwards. While some in our communities want to tear us apart, in my community of Logan we show the best of what multiculturalism has to offer. Our city is a proud home to people from more than 200 cultural backgrounds and that diversity is our strength, not our weakness. The people of Logan and people right across Queensland know that we are stronger together.

Chances House


 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (9.28 pm): Following 10 years of decline, homelessness is a problem in many areas and Mackay is not immune from those problems. Many members of the public have shared their concerns around one area along the river in Mackay. It is one of the most beautiful spots. The Pioneer River is one of the only rivers on the east coast of Queensland that has blue water. Unfortunately, through many circumstances, people of all ages have started to use the area to sleep. No-one pretends there is only one reason for that. Many of those people have multiple complicated issues not limited to drug addiction, alcohol addiction, mental health or even domestic violence issues.

Amongst all of this is a beacon of hope: Chances House. This hope has been enhanced by the election commitment of \$1 million for staffing and assistance to the homeless. Chances House, led by Kayleigh Brewster and her management team, help those vulnerable people. They provide two meals a day, case management to assist with housing options and a nurse to deal with wound dressing and assist with doctor appointments and pharmaceutical pick-ups. More than that, the army of volunteers come in early in the morning not only to prepare the hot food but also to clean up, chat and get items from the clothing store for the people who attend.

Once breakfast is cleared, the building is used as a safe place to keep warm or cool, depending on the season, and to rest. Assistance is offered to fill in application forms. During a recent visit to Mackay, the Premier led an antisocial behaviour workshop, and there is light at the end of the tunnel. He has already galvanised action from government and non-government organisations. All agree this issue needs to be fixed. The Mackay community can be assured that I will endeavour to do all that can possibly be done to fix this complicated issue.

I thank everyone at Chances House for all they do in the community, as well as the residents, business owners and homeless. Their work is of a very high standard and is so important. Kayleigh, you and your team are amazing. Thank you.

Members of Parliament, Behaviour

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (9.30 pm): After the last parliament, and given what has occurred in our own country and globally since then, I appeal again to both sides of this chamber, as I did when I made my maiden speech in 2018, that—

It is time to set a better example to our communities, especially to our youngest Australians, that bullying and aggression are not tools of negotiation.


Please, just stop and think. How can we expect our children and grandchildren and everyday Queenslanders to respect each other and their views when our own behaviour falls far short of community expectation? How can we inspire our communities to negotiate and resolve issues and lead by example without hatred and promoting divisiveness when we cannot manage to do that in this chamber?

It was a real eye-opener to visit the Commonwealth parliament in Canberra recently. The debate was relevant, with not a slogan to be heard. The members were considerate of the Speaker's rulings and, dare I say it, professional. The ball was played, not the man or woman. Question time was civil—no emotive falsities, no misinformation, no endless calls to order from the Speaker or constant interjections on relevance. It renewed my faith in what is possible.

Whether a large business, a not-for-profit or, indeed, a parliament, culture drives performance. Every MP in this House is aware that the culture of our chamber has become unproductive and toxic, with the repetitive attacks across the chamber a form of bullying. So much time is lost in efforts to drag the other side down versus transparency, credibility, accountability and deliverability, which would not be tolerated in an ASX200 company. Peter Drucker, a management consultant and author, said 'culture eats strategy for breakfast'. This is fundamental to having our governance and systems working effectively for the people of Queensland.

I respectfully ask that both sides work together to build a culture in this chamber and parliament that Queenslanders can be proud of—where we are not embarrassed to have students in the gallery and where procedures and standing orders, even though I may disagree with some, are adhered to out of respect for the Speaker, the people we represent and each other. I ask that we focus on what we are paid to do: work hard on the challenges impacting our communities and state together, not waste time on the politicking and the tit-for-tat, and we should do this without furthering the disrespect being experienced in many realms of our communities, including by our police and teachers. Instead of looking for media grabs that incite outrage and anger, which does nothing for Queenslanders except promote discontent, disengagement and despair, we should lead by example to inspire better behaviours. That will be a win for all and our future.

Baillie, Mrs L

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (9.33 pm): My eyes might leak and my voice might break on this one. With the indulgence of the chamber, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Luran Baillie. Affectionately referred to as Old Dear, Mama or Mum, Luran leaves behind a loving, tight-knit family after taking her last breath on 2 September 2025. This was following a weekend filled with family events, including a fashion show with her grandchildren trying on all of her old dresses and a family movie night with home videos of when we were all a lot younger. I will not share her age here as I do not think she would appreciate that, but it is safe to say she was taken from us way too soon.

After a lifetime of being active and enjoying good health, it came as a great shock when, during COVID, a persistent sore lower back was diagnosed as cancer. Initial treatments reportedly went well. With the diagnostic tools available it was understood the cancer went into remission. It was approximately one year ago that some concerning test results indicated the cancer had spread and was extremely active when treatment was ramped up again.

She fought hard over that last year but did not miss any opportunity to celebrate life at any chance. It did not matter how hard she was fighting or how much pain she was in, Luran celebrated every birthday, Christmas, Easter, performance or award received at school assemblies, even the swearing in of a new government. She made sure she was there. Come to think of it, I do not think Luran missed an opportunity for any celebration. Even if it was not legitimate, she would make one up and put a celebration in place.

Luran never went halfway when it came to the celebrations she participated in, with an abundance of food, presents and decorations the norm. Even just snacks—as she called it—better resembled the buffet at a five-star restaurant. Even if she was just visiting for a quick cuppa, you would almost be guaranteed a batch of fresh, homemade cupcakes or honey joys. She was not one for protocols either—famously, or perhaps infamously, leaning in and giving Prince William a motherly hug when he toured Cardwell following the devastation of Cyclone Yasi.

That was what she was—a loving mother and a proud grandmother. Mum once said to my sister, ‘Having grandkids makes having kids worthwhile. Look at what you get—all of the joy and none of the discipline.’ I know that her nine grandchildren—Jade, Grace, Charlotte, Annabelle, Paxton, William, Sienna, Evelyn and Isla—will miss her dearly. Whether it was the after-school or weekend visits, sleepovers or trips to the Strand for ice cream or just a day in the garden picking flowers, those memories will be cherished. We will ensure her memory lives on and we are so thankful she is no longer in pain. Rest in peace, Old Dear.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.36 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Whiting, Young