



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 14 October 2025

Subject	Page
ASSENT TO BILLS	2965
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 19 September 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a bill on 19 September 2025.	2966
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 23 September 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a bill on 23 September 2025.	2966
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY	2966
Reply from Governor	2966
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Speech by Her Excellency the Governor, dated 22 September 2025, titled 'Presentation of the Address-in-Reply for the first session of the 58th Parliament of Queensland'. ...	2966
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	2966
Absence of Members	2966
Question on Notice, Administrative Error	2966
Queensland Parliament and Local Government Association of Queensland and, Mutual Access Agreement	2967
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'Mutual Access Agreement' between Queensland Parliament and the Local Government Association of Queensland.	2967
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Annual General Meeting	2967
Visitors to Public Gallery	2967
PETITIONS	2967
TABLED PAPERS	2968
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	2974
Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements	2974
Residential Activation Fund	2975
Energy Roadmap	2976
Mount Isa, Copper Smelter	2976
Trade and Investment	2977

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 14 October 2025

Health Infrastructure	2978
Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology	2979
Victims of Crime	2980
Gold Coast, Transport Infrastructure; Road Rules	2980
PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS	2981
Comments by Member for Lytton, Correction and Apology	2981
Member for Hinchinbrook, Resignation	2981
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	2984
Member for Hinchinbrook, Resignation	2984
PERSONAL EXPLANATION	2984
Comments by Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Retraction and Apology	2984
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	2985
White, Ms C	2985
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Copy of Queensland Government report re Christine White hospital visit redacted ..	2985
White, Ms C	2985
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Schedule 3 Performance Measures for Hospital and Health Services and a copy of an article from the <i>Sunday Mail</i> , dated 28 September 2025, titled 'Heartless KPIs killed our mum'	2985
Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance	2986
White, Ms C	2987
Regional Queensland, Infrastructure	2987
White, Ms C	2988
Community Safety	2989
White, Ms C	2989
Police Resources	2990
White, Ms C	2991
Education System	2991
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from social media, undated, featuring a post by the member for Murrumba, Hon. Steven Miles, in relation to leadership.	2992
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Further extract from social media, undated, featuring a post by the member for Murrumba, Hon. Steven Miles, in relation to leadership.	2992
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Tax invoice, dated 20 February 2025, issued by Full Spectrum Education to Burpengary State Secondary College.	2992
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Tax invoice, dated 24 February 2025, issued by Full Spectrum Group to West End State School.	2992
Ministerial Responsibility	2992
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Brisbane Times</i> , dated 17 March 2017, titled 'Mark Bailey should stand aside: Nicholls'	2992
Public Service	2993
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from social media, undated, featuring a post of the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Steven Miles, regarding relevance.	2993
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services	2993
Youth Parliament	2994
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from social media, undated, featuring a post by the member for Murrumba, Hon. Steven Miles, titled 'The Federal Labor'	2995
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services	2995
Public Service	2996
EDUCATION, ARTS AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE	2996
Membership	2996
HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3)	2996
Introduction	2996
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2025	2997
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2025, explanatory notes	2997
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.	2997
First Reading	3000
Referral to Health, Environment and Innovation Committee	3000
DEFAMATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	3000
Introduction	3000
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Defamation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025	3000
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Defamation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes	3000
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Defamation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.	3000
First Reading	3004
Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee	3004
QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH BILL	3005
Second Reading	3005
MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST	3011
Health System	3011
Leader of the Opposition, Performance	3013
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the member for Cooper, Ms Jonty Bush MP, in relation to Democracy Manifest lunch.	3014
Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance	3014
Labor Party, Performance	3015

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 14 October 2025

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services	3016
Wangetti Trail	3017
Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance	3018
Torres Strait, Women's Shelters	3018
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services	3019
Member for Miller; Youth Crime	3020
CopperString	3021
QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH BILL	3022
Second Reading	3022
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	3056
Trade Mission	3056
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 14 October 2025, from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, regarding a trade mission to the United Kingdom, Switzerland and France.	3056
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Overseas Travel Report: Report on Trade Mission to London, Lausanne and Paris by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, 1-14 September 2025.	3056
QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH BILL	3056
Second Reading	3056
Consideration in Detail	3058
Clauses 1 to 10, as read, agreed to.	3058
Clause 11—.....	3058
Division: Question put—That clause 11, as read, stand part of the bill.	3060
Resolved in the affirmative.....	3060
Clause 11, as read, agreed to.....	3060
Clauses 12 to 58, as read, agreed to.	3060
Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.	3060
Third Reading.....	3060
Long Title.....	3060
CORONERS (MINING AND RESOURCES CORONER) AMENDMENT BILL.....	3060
Second Reading.....	3060
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 7, 58th Parliament—Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025, government response.	3061
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025, amendments to be moved by Hon. Meaghan Scanlon MP.	3064
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendments.	3064
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendments.....	3065
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media release, dated 11 October 2024, by the member for Burdekin, Hon. Dale Last MP, titled 'LNP to deliver Mining Warden's Court'.....	3071
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media release, dated 15 October 2024, by the member for Nanango, Hon. Deb Frecklington MP, titled 'LNP to deliver Mining Warden's Court'.	3071
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from <i>iQ Industry News</i> , dated 11 October 2024, titled 'LNP plan to bring back Mining Warden'.	3071
ADJOURNMENT	3072
Ipswich, Roads and Transport Infrastructure.....	3072
Redlands Electorate, Projects; Palm, Ms K.....	3073
Forgotten Women: Live Like Her Challenge.....	3073
Burleigh, Community Safety	3074
C&K Craigslea Community Kindergarten	3074
National Carers Week	3075
Sunnybank Special School.....	3076
Moggill Electorate	3076
Noosa Electorate.....	3077
Road Safety	3077
ATTENDANCE	3078

TUESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2025

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Pat Weir, Condamine) read prayers and took the chair.



Mr 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.

ASSENT TO BILLS



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from Her Excellency the Governor letters in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letters will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letters for the information of members.

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bill, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, was assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on the date shown:

Date of assent: 19 September 2025

A bill for an Act to amend the Crimes at Sea Act 2001, the Criminal Code, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

This Bill is hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

19 September 2025

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bill, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, was assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on the date shown:

Date of assent: 23 September 2025

A bill for an Act to amend the Fire Services Act 1990, the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019, the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024, the Public Health Act 2005, the Public Health Regulation 2018, the Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013 and the Radiation Safety Act 1999 for particular purposes

This Bill is hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

23 September 2025

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 19 September 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a bill on 19 September 2025 [[1495](#)].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 23 September 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a bill on 23 September 2025 [[1496](#)].

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Reply from Governor

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that on Monday, 22 September 2025, accompanied by honourable members, I presented to Her Excellency the Governor the address of the Legislative Assembly adopted by this House on Tuesday, 24 June 2024 in reply to Her Excellency's opening speech and that Her Excellency has been pleased to make a reply, which has been circulated. I seek leave of the House to incorporate Her Excellency's reply.

Leave granted.

Reply by Her Excellency to the address of the Legislative Assembly adopted on Tuesday, 24 June 2024

Premier, Deputy Premier, Mr Speaker, Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Services.

I, begin by acknowledging the Original Custodians of the lands around Brisbane, the Turrbal and Jagera peoples, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

As the representative of His Majesty The King, I am honoured to extend to you, Mr Speaker, and to the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, my sincere gratitude for the formal Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech, which I delivered at the Opening of the 58th Parliament of Queensland on the 27th of November 2024.

It will be my pleasant duty to convey to His Majesty this expression of loyalty and warm regard from the Members of the Queensland Parliament.

His Majesty remains a strong and unifying presence throughout Queensland, Australia and the nations of the Commonwealth, steadfast in his commitment to service and to our shared democratic values.

Here in Queensland, I encourage all Members of the Legislative Assembly in their endeavours to promote the wellbeing and prosperity of our State.

Speaking for all Queenslanders, I trust that your dedication will yield great success for our State and its people.

Tabled paper: Speech by Her Excellency the Governor, dated 22 September 2025, titled 'Presentation of the Address-in-Reply for the first session of the 58th Parliament of Queensland' [[1497](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Absence of Members

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Hill that he will be absent from the House from 14 to 16 October, inclusive of these dates. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A. Honourable members, I have also received advice from the member for Scenic Rim that he will be absent from the House from 14 to 16 October, inclusive of those dates. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

Question on Notice, Administrative Error

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 28 August 2025 the member for Toohey asked a question on notice to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services in accordance with standing order 114 which was published as question on notice 977 of 2025. Due to an administrative error, when the Table Office processed the question it inadvertently removed certain words that specified a timeframe for the information requested. As a result, the minister was not able to answer the question because the relevant timeframe was not specified in the published version. To address the administrative error and to ensure the member's original question can be answered, on 1 October 2025 I wrote to the minister requesting that she provide a response to the original question which specifies a relevant timeframe for the information requested by 29 October 2025. Once this response is provided, it will replace the minister's earlier response in the questions on notice database.

Queensland Parliament and Local Government Association of Queensland and, Mutual Access Agreement

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that last sitting week I re-signed a mutual access agreement between the Queensland parliament and the Local Government Association of Queensland with Alison Smith, the LGAQ's Chief Executive Officer. The access agreement, in place for another five years, allows members of parliament to utilise the facilities of participating councils to meet with constituents while also allowing mayors, councillors and CEOs to conduct meetings within the parliamentary precinct in relation to their duties. I thank the LGAQ for its ongoing support of this partnership, which continues to deliver meaningful benefits for both parties. I table the agreement for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Mutual Access Agreement' between Queensland Parliament and the Local Government Association of Queensland [[1559](#)].

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Annual General Meeting

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I remind members that the annual general meeting of the Queensland branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will be held in the Legislative Assembly chamber this afternoon at 1.05 pm.

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from the Australian Christian College in the electorate of Pumicestone, Bellbird Park State Secondary College in the electorate of Bundamba, Bray Park State High School in the electorate of Pine Rivers, Thangool State School in the electorate of Callide and Coolum State School in the electorate of Ninderry.

Honourable members, I also wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by the Torres Strait Islander Women in Leadership Program as part of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petition, sponsored and lodged by the Clerk—

Western Downs Regional Council

487 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate whether the Western Downs Regional Council complied with the Local Government Act 2009 to construct a cultural and tourism centre in the Thomas Jack Park and take other actions [[1535](#)] [[1536](#)].

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

Charters Towers Hospital

Mr Katter, from 2,913 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the proposed Charters Towers Hospital is reconfigured as a greenfield development on vacant land north of Eventide, and that the existing hostel accommodation is preserved and made available for private rental or leased to developers interested in its renovation and reuse [[1537](#)].

Flinders, Water Infrastructure

Mr Katter, from 675 petitioners, requesting the House to secure the urban water infrastructure for the community of Flinders [[1538](#)].

Red Hill, Dean Street Footbridge

Ms Bush, from 362 petitioners, requesting the House to work with Brisbane City Council to replace the Dean Street footbridge at Red Hill [[1539](#)].

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the Clerk—

Redland City Council

1,495 petitioners, requesting the House to dissolve the Redland City Council and appoint an interim administrator until the conclusion of an election of councillors to be held on a stated date or the conclusion of the next quadrennial election [[1540](#)].

Soft Plastics, Ban

1,969 petitioners, requesting the House to implement a complete ban on soft plastics in Queensland [[1541](#)].

Gympie, Glastonbury Road

374 petitioners, requesting the House to bring Glastonbury Road, the Gympie-Woollooga Road, up to a safe standard and fix the four lane bridges to be dual carriage bridges with Armco barriers [\[1542\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

19 September 2025—

[1293](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Annual Report 2024-25

[1294](#) Screen Queensland—Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

22 September 2025—

[1295](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an ePetition (4202-25), sponsored by the member for Pine Rivers, Ms Boyd, from 9,704 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to protect and expand gender affirming healthcare for Queenslanders

[1296](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to a paper petition (4286-25) presented by the member for Maryborough, Mr Barounis, and an ePetition (4253-25), sponsored by the member for Maryborough, Mr Barounis, from 5,119 and 1,054 petitioners, requesting the House to cause the introduction of a mobile life blood donation unit in the Maryborough region

[1297](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an ePetition (4265-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 6,729 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the reinstatement of Dr Jillian Spencer to her position of Senior Staff Specialist at the Queensland Children's Hospital

[1298](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal—Annual Report 2024-2025

[1299](#) Queensland Health: Notifiable Dust Lung Disease Register—Annual Report 2024-2025

23 September 2025—

[1300](#) Controlled Operations Committee—Annual Report 2024-2025

[1301](#) Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 40, 58th Parliament—Report on 2025 Budget Estimates Process

24 September 2025—

[1302](#) Auditor-General Report 2: 2025-26—Managing the ethical risks of artificial intelligence

[1303](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Education and the Arts (Hon. Langbroek) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Education and Care Services Regulation 2013

25 September 2025—

[1304](#) Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an ePetition (4262-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,955 petitioners, requesting the House to stop any new shark net or drum line plans and transition away from these harmful practices

[1305](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an ePetition (4201-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 295 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a new city in the Upper Dawson area of Queensland; build a train line between Springsure (Emerald) and Roma, directly linking Roma to Gladstone Sea Port; and build an aqueduct system connecting the state's northern rivers to the new city in the Upper Dawson

[1306](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an ePetition (4263-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,048 petitioners, requesting the House to limit all short-term rentals to places where the owner of the property is actually living and staying in the property and doing a bed and breakfast service

[1307](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an ePetition (4271-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,629 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the development proposal by Iberdrola for the purpose of a renewable energy battery energy storage facility located at Monduran Dam Road, Monduran

[1308](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an ePetition (4229-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 4,941 petitioners, requesting the House to cause a coronial inquest into the disappearance of Bruce Gavin Schuler

[1309](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an ePetition (4258-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 920 petitioners, requesting the House to bring in citizen-initiated referenda

[1310](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an ePetition (4257-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 865 petitioners, requesting the House to formally investigate Tablelands Regional Council over allegations of misconduct in relation to the Patrick English Pavilion, Malanda

- [1311](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development (Hon. Last), to an ePetition (4254-25), sponsored by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 3,443 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the copper smelter in Mount Isa is not permitted to be closed, and a willing miner is immediately installed to realise Queensland's abundant copper resource
- [1312](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to a paper petition (4288-25), presented by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (4251-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 146 and 971 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to amend the Queensland Flying Fox Roost Management Framework to ensure residents are able to repel flying fox plagues using realistic and feasible methods
- [1313](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to a paper petition (4289-25) presented by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (4260-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 158 and 3,210 petitioners respectively, requesting the House allow the Teewah Airfield to remain in its current configuration; including use by emergency services and for evacuations, helicopter training, and recreational sports aviation clubs
- [1314](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4227-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 114 petitioners, requesting the House to end the trial of the noise detection cameras
- [1315](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4236-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,953 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate cash as a payment option at all Queensland Rail ticket offices, council parking meters and ticket purchases for community events
- [1316](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4228-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,899 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce and pass a law to make 50 cent fares for all public transport permanent
- [1317](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to a paper petition (4287-25), presented by the member for Maryborough, Mr Barounis, and an ePetition (4241-25), sponsored by the member for Maryborough, Mr Barounis, from 138 and 279 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to alter the speed limit on Maryborough-Boonooroo Road
- [1318](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4270-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 618 petitioners, requesting the House to relieve congestion on major roads by implementing multi-person vehicle lanes either permanently or during morning and afternoon peak hours

26 September 2025—

- [1319](#) Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1320](#) Valuers Registration Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1321](#) Coexistence Queensland—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1322](#) Resources Safety & Health Queensland—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1323](#) Surveyors Board Queensland—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1324](#) Department of Natural Resource and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1325](#) Queensland Law Society—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1326](#) Queensland Family and Child Commission—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1327](#) Legal Aid Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1328](#) Electoral Commission Queensland—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1329](#) Crime and Corruption Commission—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1330](#) Department of Justice—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1331](#) Queensland Human Rights Commission—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1332](#) Queensland Public Trustee—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1333](#) Legal Practitioners Admissions Board—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1334](#) Professional Standards Councils—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1335](#) Professional Standards Councils—Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025
- [1336](#) Queensland Training Ombudsman—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1337](#) Trade and Investment Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1338](#) Department of Trade, Employment and Training—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1339](#) Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1340](#) Queensland Racing Integrity Commission—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1341](#) Racing Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1342](#) Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1343](#) Stadiums Queensland—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1344](#) Queensland Rail—Annual and Financial Report 2024-2025

- [1345](#) Queensland Rail Limited—Financial report for the year ended 30 June 2025
- [1346](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1347](#) Cross River Rail Delivery Authority—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1348](#) Gold Coast Waterways Authority—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1349](#) North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1350](#) North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2024-25
- [1351](#) Gladstone Ports Corporation—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1352](#) Gladstone Ports Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2024-25
- [1353](#) Port of Townsville Limited—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1354](#) Port of Townsville Limited—Statement of Corporate Intent 2024-2025
- [1355](#) Department of Health—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1356](#) Office of the Chief Psychiatrist—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1357](#) Mental Health Court—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1358](#) Mental Health Review Tribunal—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1359](#) Ports North—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1360](#) Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (Trading as Ports North)—Statement of Corporate Intent 2024-25
- [1361](#) Children's Hospital Foundation Queensland—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1362](#) Mackay Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1363](#) Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1364](#) Townsville Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1365](#) Toowoomba Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1366](#) The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1367](#) Sunshine Coast Health Foundation (Wishlist)—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1368](#) Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1369](#) PA Research Foundation—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1370](#) Bundaberg Health Services Foundation—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1371](#) Gold Coast Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1372](#) West Moreton Health Foundation—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1373](#) Central Queensland Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1374](#) Health and Wellbeing Queensland—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1375](#) QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1376](#) Office of the Health Ombudsman—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1377](#) Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1378](#) Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1379](#) Queensland Competition Authority—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1380](#) Motor Accident Insurance Commission—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1381](#) National Injury Insurance Agency Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1382](#) Queensland Treasury Corporation—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1383](#) Queensland Productivity Commission—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1384](#) Cleanco Queensland—Statement of Corporate Intent 2024-2025
- [1385](#) Cleanco Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1386](#) CS Energy—Statement of Corporate Intent 2024-25
- [1387](#) CS Energy—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1388](#) Energy Queensland—Statement of Corporate Intent 2024-25
- [1389](#) Energy Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1390](#) Ergon Energy Queensland—Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025
- [1391](#) Powerlink Queensland—Statement of Corporate Intent 2024-25
- [1392](#) Powerlink Queensland—Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024-25
- [1393](#) Queensland Investment Corporation Properties Pty Ltd—Annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2025
- [1394](#) Queensland Investment Corporation Private Capital Pty Ltd—Annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2025
- [1395](#) Queensland Investment Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2024-25

- [1396](#) Queensland Investment Corporation—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1397](#) Queensland Investment Corporation Limited—Consolidated annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2025
 - [1398](#) Stanwell—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1399](#) Stanwell—Statement of Corporate Intent 2024-25
 - [1400](#) Energy & Water Ombudsman Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1401](#) Queensland Hydro Pty Ltd—Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025
 - [1402](#) TAFE Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1403](#) Queensland Police Service—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1404](#) Department of the Premier and Cabinet—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1405](#) Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1406](#) Office of the Cross-Border Commissioner—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1407](#) Public Sector Commission—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1408](#) South West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1409](#) Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1410](#) Metro North Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1411](#) Metro South Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1412](#) North West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1413](#) Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1414](#) Central West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1415](#) West Moreton Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1416](#) Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1417](#) Townsville Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1418](#) Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1419](#) Mackay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1420](#) Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1421](#) Gladstone Area Water Board—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1422](#) Mount Isa Water Board—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1423](#) Seqwater—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1424](#) Seqwater—Operational Plan 2024-25
 - [1425](#) Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1426](#) Sunwater—Statement of Corporate Intent 2024-25
 - [1427](#) Urban Utilities—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1428](#) Safe Food Production Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1429](#) Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1430](#) Queensland Reconstruction Authority—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1431](#) Board of Architects of Queensland—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1432](#) Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1433](#) Residential Tenancies Authority—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1434](#) Newstead House Board of Trustees—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1435](#) Tourism and Events Queensland—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1436](#) Queensland Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1437](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014
 - [1438](#) Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1439](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission—Annual Report 2024-2025
 - [1440](#) Queensland Veterans' Council—Annual Report 2024-25
 - [1441](#) Unitywater—Annual Report 2024-2025
- 29 September 2025—
- [1442](#) Annual Report of General Travel Allocation Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2024-30 June 2025

- [1443](#) Annual Report of Electorate and Communication Allowance Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2024-30 June 2025¹
- [1444](#) Annual Report of Air Warrant and Alternate Travel Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2024-30 June 2025
- [1445](#) Queensland Parliamentary Service—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1446](#) Department of Families, Seniors, Disability and Child Safety—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1447](#) Queensland Mental Health Commission—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1448](#) Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1449](#) Department of Primary Industries—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1450](#) Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1451](#) Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1452](#) Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1453](#) Queensland Fire Department—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1454](#) Office of the Governor—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1455](#) Queensland Integrity Commissioner—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1456](#) Department of Housing and Public Works—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1457](#) Night-Life Economy Commissioner—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1458](#) Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1459](#) Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1460](#) Queensland Treasury—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1461](#) Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1462](#) Economic Development Queensland—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1463](#) Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1464](#) Office of the Independent Assessor—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1465](#) Queensland Corrective Services—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1466](#) Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2024-25
- 30 September 2025—
- [1467](#) Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1468](#) Library Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1469](#) Queensland Performing Arts Centre—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1470](#) Board of the Queensland Museum—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1471](#) Non-State Schools Accreditation Board—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1472](#) Queensland Art Gallery Board of Trustees—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1473](#) Sunwater—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1474](#) Department of Education—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1475](#) Office of the Information Commissioner—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1476](#) Queensland Police Service-Surveillance Device Warrants—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1477](#) Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1478](#) Community Enterprise Queensland—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1479](#) South Bank Corporation—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1480](#) President of the Industrial Court of Queensland (in respect of the Industrial Court of Queensland, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Queensland Industrial Registry)—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1481](#) Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1482](#) Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1483](#) WorkCover Queensland—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1484](#) Child Protection Offenders Registry: Device Inspection Powers—Annual Report 2024-2025
- 2 October 2025—
- [1485](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 9, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 30 April 2025 and 24 June 2025
- [1486](#) Gladstone Ports Corporation—Annual Report 2024-25: Erratum

¹ This document has been replaced with a correct electronic copy

3 October 2025—

- [1487](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Trade Mission to India and Japan by the Premier and Minister for Veterans, Hon. David Crisafulli, 29 August to 5 September 2025

7 October 2025—

- [1488](#) Manual for the National Tax Equivalent Regime May 2025 (Version 13)

- [1489](#) Manual for the National Tax Equivalent Regime July 2025 (Version 13)

8 October 2025—

- [1490](#) Auditor-General Report 3: 2025-26—2025 status of Auditor-General's recommendations

9 October 2025—

- [1491](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal—Electorate and Communication Allowance Band Adjustment 2025—Determination 36/2025, 9 October 2025

- [1492](#) Response from the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. Mander), to an ePetition (4269-25), sponsored by the member for Murrumba, Hon. Miles, from 603 petitioners, requesting the House to recognise the cultural significance of 'Alfie's Table' and declare it a Queensland Landmark

13 October 2025—

- [1493](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on official visit to United States of America, Washington D.C. and Virginia by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, Hon. Deb Frecklington, 7 September to 13 September 2025

- [1494](#) Legal Aid Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25: Erratum

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1498](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Feral Pest Exclusion Fencing Grants Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 120

- [1499](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Feral Pest Exclusion Fencing Grants Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 120, explanatory notes

- [1500](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Feral Pest Exclusion Fencing Grants Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 120, human rights certificate

Food Act 2006, Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Public Health Act 2005, Radiation Safety Act 1999:

- [1501](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 121

- [1502](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 121, explanatory notes

- [1503](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 121, human rights certificate

Evidence Act 1977, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [1504](#) Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 122

- [1505](#) Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 122, explanatory notes

- [1506](#) Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 122, human rights certificate

Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Queensland) Act 2003:

- [1507](#) Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Endorsement) Notice 2025, No. 123

- [1508](#) Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Endorsement) Notice 2025, No. 123, explanatory notes

- [1509](#) Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Endorsement) Notice 2025, No. 123, human rights certificate

Education and Care Services Act 2013, Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005:

- [1510](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 124

- [1511](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 124, explanatory notes

- [1512](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 124, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [1513](#) Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 125

- [1514](#) Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 125, explanatory notes

- [1515](#) Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 125, human rights certificate

Child Safe Organisations Act 2024:

- [1516](#) Child Safe Organisations Regulation 2025, No. 126

[1517](#) Child Safe Organisations Regulation 2025, No. 126, explanatory notes

[1518](#) Child Safe Organisations Regulation 2025, No. 126, human rights certificate

Tow Truck Act 2023, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

[1519](#) Transport Legislation (Waiving Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 127

[1520](#) Transport Legislation (Waiving Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 127, explanatory notes

[1521](#) Transport Legislation (Waiving Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 127, human rights certificate

Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025:

[1522](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 128

[1523](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 128, explanatory notes

[1524](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 128, human rights certificate

Childrens Court Act 1992, Disability Services Act 2006, Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, Evidence Act 1977, Explosives Act 1999, Magistrates Courts Act 1921, Police Service Administration Act 1990, Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008:

[1525](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 129

[1526](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 129, explanatory notes

[1527](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 129, human rights certificate

Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024:

[1528](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 130

[1529](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 130, explanatory notes

Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024:

[1530](#) Pharmacy Business Ownership Regulation 2025, No. 131

[1531](#) Pharmacy Business Ownership Regulation 2025, No. 131, explanatory notes

[1532](#) Pharmacy Business Ownership Regulation 2025, No. 131, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL PAPER/S

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth (Hon. O'Connor)—

[1533](#) Ministerial direction, dated 13 October 2025, from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth, Hon. Sam O'Connor, to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission under section 9 of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991

Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth (Hon. O'Connor)—

[1534](#) Letter, dated 29 July 2025, from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth, Hon. Sam O'Connor, to the Chair, Queensland Building and Construction Board, Mr Greg Chemello, titled 'Statement of expectations—Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC)'

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.37 am): Almost 12 months ago the people of Queensland voted for a fresh start. After a decade of decline under Labor, we saw the challenges facing our state—crime, housing, health, cost of living. Since we came to government we have been focused on delivering for Queensland. Fewer police, weaker laws and a lack of early intervention created Labor's youth crime crisis. Under this government, there are fewer victims of crime. Crime is starting to trend down, but the job is far from done. We are serious about delivering change and restoring consequences for actions. We have delivered a thousand new police recruits, and there is more to come. Our special Flying Squad has arrested over a thousand youth criminals. Adult Crime, Adult Time is now law. The new laws will be combined with the biggest investment in early intervention and rehabilitation in our state's history. Under the former government, young people leaving detention were given only 72 hours of support after release. Reoffending rates skyrocketed. Our new Staying on Track program provides up to 12 months of intensive rehabilitation. We have already announced seven providers that will deliver the new program in Ipswich and Inala, Gold Coast, Cairns and Townsville.

Last week we delivered the Energy Roadmap. It is our plan to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for Queenslanders. After a decade of blowouts and delays under Labor, our state now has a credible delivery plan. The road map balances respect for taxpayers' money and building what is needed for the future. It is an approach we are taking right across government. Take the Residential Activation Fund as an example. We want more Queenslanders to have a place to call home. By delivering targeted investment right across the state, this fund will unlock thousands of new homes.

We are also delivering more social and affordable housing. There are almost 6,000 social and affordable homes now in construction or under contract. That is more than twice the number Labor had locked in at the time of the last budget. We are also delivering more support for Queensland women. Our new Women's Career Grants are all about helping women who have been out of the workforce for more than six months. Today I can reveal there has already been over 1,000 expressions of interest in under 48 hours. The grants will help fund the cost of work wear, child care, training, recertification and tools. It will help break down barriers to get women back into the workforce.

It is a great time to be a Queenslander. Maybe it is the excitement of multiple sporting premierships coming home to Queensland, maybe it is our exporters taking Queensland to the world or maybe it is the energy from our multicultural communities celebrating events like Diwali but, as I travel around the state and talk to Queenslanders, there is much cause for optimism. They feel that they finally have a government that is delivering for them and not in chaos and crisis. We have come a long way in the last year but there is a long way to go. We will continue to deliver safety where you live, health services when you need them, respect for your money and a place to call home. That is what Queenslanders voted for. That is what Queenslanders deserve, and that is exactly what our government will deliver.

Residential Activation Fund

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.41 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is undoing the decade of decline, decay and failures overseen by the Leader of the Opposition when he was premier of this great state. For 10 years under Labor, Queenslanders saw their standard of living consistently fall, they did not feel safe in their own homes and communities and many had never found it more difficult to realise the great Australian dream of finding their own place to call home. Labor's legacy is one of failure. Nearly a year on from the state election, the difference between the approach this new government has taken to deal with the issues of the day—compared to our predecessors—could not be clearer. We promised Queenslanders that we would make it easier for them to get into their first home and we are delivering.

As honourable members would know, I sang a song here a few sittings ago, *I've Been Everywhere*, as I am delivering the Residential Activation Fund. The video was such a success it went viral. I do not know what that means but it went viral on social media, TikTok and all the groovy things that we are engaged in.

A government member: Groovy, hey? Groovy.

Mr BLEIJIE: You like that? Today I have another announcement. I can confirm the government will support the delivery through the Residential Activation Fund of another 90 new homes in the Redlands with \$4.3 million towards the South-West Victoria Point Central Sewer Trunk Expansion. This will secure the future development of housing in the region for years to come. This announcement today marks the final funding announcement for round 1 of the Crisafulli government's landmark \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund which will unlock more than 98,000 new homes for Queenslanders within three years. This initial \$1 billion investment will mean Queenslanders in every corner of the state will be able to get into their home sooner.

I am also pleased to announce that more than 50 per cent of the fund will be spent unlocking housing outside of South-East Queensland, just like we promised. This will give regional, rural and remote Queenslanders an opportunity to live, work and play in the communities that they love. It is this government's priority to have more Queenslanders move to regional and rural Queensland and see the beauty that is there in regional and rural Queensland. I had the pleasure of being in the Southern Downs with the honourable member only a couple of weeks ago on a wonderful tour of his beautiful community.

The Crisafulli government has truly reset the planning partnerships with local governments across the state, empowering many of them to deliver projects that would not have been possible without the support of the new Queensland government. We are working collaboratively with mayors, councils and private landowners to do what is right, to listen to the needs of their communities and to deliver the housing that will secure their economic future.

The issue of the housing crisis and how to deal with it is not actually hard—it is supply, supply, supply. That is what we are doing with the Residential Activation Fund. We know that under Labor, new housing lot approvals fell by 29 per cent on their watch, locking Queenslanders out of the market and making it near impossible for many Queenslanders—particularly young people—to ever be able to purchase their own stake in our state. The former Labor government lacked the imagination and the aspiration to unlock housing in the market, content with the next generation of Queenslanders being renters for life. We are not. We want every young Queenslander to live the Australian dream of owning their own home, if that is what they want. Queenslanders deserve better. They deserve a chance of home ownership and aspiration. They deserve the opportunity to work hard, save up and eventually buy their own home if they choose.

Home ownership was a cornerstone of the kind of lifestyle our lucky country could offer and under a succession of failed Labor housing ministers—many of whom still sit in this place—it became out of reach for many Queenslanders. The Crisafulli government is delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for nearly a year ago, securing our housing foundation so Queenslanders can get into their own home sooner after Labor's decade of decline.

Energy Roadmap

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.45 am): Since forming government almost a year ago, we have been working to deliver on our commitment of affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queenslanders. Last week I was pleased to share the Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap with the Queensland people. It is a pragmatic and realistic plan to improve the energy assets we have, while we build what we need for the future. It is founded on economics and engineering; not ideology. It is grounded in the realities of consumer needs, infrastructure costs and deliverability timeframes. It is a journey that will be travelled the Queensland way.

Central to the Energy Roadmap are our commitments to leverage existing assets to put downward pressure on prices, no regret investments to respect taxpayers' money and boost private sector investment in new energy infrastructure. The road map will deliver coal generation for longer, more renewables and additional dispatchable supply including gas turbines, pumped hydro and batteries for firming and storage. The former Labor government's decision to close coal units by 2035—regardless of their condition—has been officially abolished. The road map resets indicative operating timeframes for state owned coal generators to at least technical lives, with options to extend based on a matrix that considers system need, asset integrity and financial performance. That is good news for tens of thousands of Queensland jobs.

The road map reduces energy system costs for taxpayers by \$26 billion, avoiding Queensland households bearing the cost of \$1,035 a year that they would have otherwise paid under those opposite. Combined with our \$1.6 billion Electricity Maintenance Guarantee, we are ensuring taxpayers get the most out of the country's youngest coal fleet. We will deliver more gas-fired power to firm renewables, with QIC to undertake market sounding to partner with the private sector to deliver an additional 400 megawatts of gas supply to Central Queensland. That will work alongside the Gladstone project to upgrade and reinforce the transmission network in Central Queensland.

We know that Queensland has some of the highest quality wind and solar resources in the nation. The road map plans for more renewables across our state to support demand growth in a responsible way by landholders, local governments and regional communities. We are leveraging the expertise of QIC to lead a coordinated government assessment of smaller, more manageable pumped hydro projects. QIC will also help drive partnerships with the private sector through the new QIC investor gateway and the \$400 million Queensland Energy Investment Fund. We are delivering on our commitment to save the CopperString project, to power North and North-West Queensland and connect abundant renewables there to the grid.

The Crisafulli government is righting Labor's wrongs—the failures, fiscal fantasies and fairytales. We have consulted widely and delivered a plan to provide affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for Queenslanders. It will be done the Queensland way—utilising and improving the energy assets we have while we build what we need for the future.

Mount Isa, Copper Smelter

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.49 am): I rise to speak about a significant outcome for North and North-West Queensland that was delivered by the Crisafulli

government. Last week I announced that we have finalised a deal to secure the future of the Mount Isa copper smelter and the Townsville refinery. In lockstep with the federal government we will be providing two payments of up to \$200 million over the next two years to Glencore, with an option for a third year contingent on the completion of a transformation study alongside other review points.

Those are big numbers, but they are not the numbers that I am focused on. I am focused on the 600 direct jobs in the Mount Isa and Townsville areas that this deal supports and the hundreds more at Phosphate Hill and across the broader North and North-West Queensland area. It is those people we are delivering for: the tradies, the technicians, the engineers and the contractors who make these facilities tick.

Our approach stands in stark contrast with the approach from those opposite. Take the deputy opposition leader, for example, who claimed last month that this government was 'literally daring Glencore to close the Queensland copper refinery and copper smelter.' The deputy opposition leader went further. He said our approach would put 17,000 Queenslanders on the dole queue. The deputy opposition leader owes the people of Mount Isa and Townsville an apology, because the Crisafulli government has delivered a structured, accountable and conditional support package that delivers value for money, protects those jobs and holds Glencore to the commitments they have made. The deputy opposition leader should apologise to the people of Mount Isa and Townsville for failing to meet with Glencore at all in 2023 and 2024 after they announced the closure of the Mount Isa copper mine. While those opposite waxed lyrical about payroll taxes and dole queues, we got on with the job of delivering a serious package of capital works, including the rebricking of the smelter that secures the state's full copper value chain from mine to smelter to port.

This deal with Glencore prepares North Queensland for the next wave of opportunity, like Glencore's own Black Star Open-Cut Copper Project where feasibility work is already underway or Eva Copper which is progressing toward a final investment decision. Through the Resources Cabinet Committee, we are making sure that projects like these get the timely decisions and regulatory support that they need to move forward, because after a decade of decline under Labor, where projects sat in limbo for years while activists called the shots, the Crisafulli government is doing the hard work to create the conditions so that more mines open, not close.

I have said from day one that I would not let the Mount Isa community wither and die. We made a promise that we would protect those jobs at Mount Isa and I am proud to say that the Crisafulli government has delivered on that commitment. We are delivering a long-term sustainable future for Mount Isa and Townsville, building industrial capability, strengthening the copper value chain and creating a more diverse, resilient regional economy for the north.

Trade and Investment



Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (9.52 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering on its promise to restore Queensland's global reputation for excellence, innovation and economic leadership. Following a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli LNP government is serious about supporting our local exporters to diversify in the wake of international trade volatility and showing our partners that Queensland is open for business.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, you are very close to a warning.

Ms BATES: That is why I have just returned from my fifth international trade mission as Minister for Trade.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms BATES: During this mission, I led 35 meetings and engagements in a two-week long trade mission to the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and to Spain and Germany in the European Union. Before I departed, I launched the *Queensland-Europe & United Kingdom Trade and Investment Strategy 2025-2028*, part of a blueprint series guiding our state's engagement with some of our most significant trading and investment partners over the next three years.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: There is only one person who has the call. The cross-chamber quarrelling will cease.

Ms BATES: If considered a single country, the European Union would have ranked as Queensland's fifth-largest goods export market last year. The strategy recognises Europe and the UK are valuable partners in shaping the future—economically, strategically and culturally—and outlines a plan to leverage these opportunities to deliver the benefits that Queenslanders deserve. Through the Crisafulli LNP government's new strategy and my trade mission, we are building on the export success that Queensland companies already have in these markets. Europe and the UK are vital markets for Queensland and are strategic partners offering emerging opportunities—from aerospace and defence industries, digital innovation, advanced technologies and creative industries.

Building on the Deputy Premier's visit in September, my mission positioned Queensland business and industry to capture greater opportunities arising from agreements with the UK, UAE and the EU FTA currently under negotiation. In London we celebrated the growth of Gold Coast company ABI Interiors by officially opening its new 1,440 square metre distribution hub near London Gatwick Airport to service UK and European markets. I conducted meetings on further opportunities for Queensland beef exports, which have already surged to \$94.9 million in June 2025 following the elimination of tariffs under the Australia-UK FTA.

In Frankfurt, I continued to grow key German partnerships, like that with RWE, with Fraunhofer and the University of Queensland on energy storage R&D projects, and with German banks on infrastructure investment pathways. In Madrid, the focus was on investment ties and, importantly, energy. I met with a number of Spanish energy companies, such as Acciona, EDP and Iberdrola, which have a range of projects either proposed or underway in our state.

At each meeting with an energy company, I took the opportunity to give a high-level overview of the Crisafulli LNP government's new Energy Roadmap, highlighting that this government remains committed to a target of net zero by 2050, but it will not be arbitrarily closing our base-load coal-fired electricity generators and pushing up prices for Queenslanders. I am very pleased to report that this was very well received by all energy stakeholders, with several noting that a smoother energy transition would ensure that power prices could be better managed in the years ahead.

In the United Arab Emirates I promoted Queensland's investment opportunities and trade, including a Queensland exporters roundtable. I also note the very strong interest from a range of hotel developers in Brisbane and across the state ahead of the 2032 Olympics.

As we approach our first year in government, I have undertaken five missions to 10 major markets, rebuilding the international relationships that withered under those opposite so we can deliver new opportunities for Queensland businesses. Through trade missions like these, we are ensuring Queensland businesses, from small and family exporters to major industry leaders, have the tools and support to compete and thrive. We are delivering a program to repair Queensland's global relationships after a decade of Labor decline because we know that strong trading relationships will underpin the economic growth essential for Queenslanders to build the lifestyles they deserve. International engagement is vital to the success of our state, and these trade missions deliver more jobs and better outcomes for Queensland. Under the Crisafulli LNP government we are a Queensland of opportunity—a Queensland that is open for business.

Health Infrastructure



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.58 am): After a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli government is delivering health infrastructure where it is most needed. Thanks to our more than \$270 million investment as part of our record \$33.1 billion health budget, six new MRI machines and nine new CT scanners will be installed at 11 public hospitals and health facilities throughout Queensland. That is delivering on our promise to Queenslanders. This will ensure more Queenslanders are able to receive potentially life-saving medical scans closer to home.

MRI and CT scans produce detailed images of the body and help detect, diagnose and treat conditions including tumours, infections, inflammation, organ diseases and traumatic injuries. I announced these new machines on Monday with the Premier during a visit to Redland Hospital, which will receive its first ever MRI scanner. Well done to our hardworking local members. What a breath of fresh air they are for the Redlands.

In other good news, the Hervey Bay Hospital will also get an MRI scanner. What a breath of fresh air for Hervey Bay, an area with a growing and aging population that languished through a decade of decline under Labor. There is good news not only for those areas; we are also delivering MRI and CT machines at the Eight Mile Plains Satellite Health Centre. What is of particular concern is a post by the

member for Toohey, Mr Russo, saying, 'Save our satellite hospital'. I have news for the member for Toohey: the work is being done by the LNP. We are delivering the satellite health centre, more staff and MRI and CT machines. I look forward to the member for Toohey updating his Facebook page to say, 'Saved by the LNP government.'

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Once again, there is way too much chatter. Member for Logan, you are clean shaven and I was hoping that would bring a new approach. You will cease or you will be warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: I also look forward to seeing that from the members for Stretton, Mansfield and Springwood who also said, 'Save our satellite hospital'. The job is being done for them. We are doing the work. We are handing out the investment that Queenslanders need even in seats that we do not represent, showing that we are looking after all of Queensland. Those opposite falsely claimed we would cut satellite health centres. Not only have we appropriately renamed them after consulting more than 3,000 people, as we said we would; we are also boosting the resources for those centres. This is another example of data-driven decision-making made possible by the LNP government.

We made the announcement at Redlands after a decade of decline during which Redland Hospital recorded some of the highest ramping figures in the state. It was at 70 per cent in the April to June quarter last year. The ramping rate those opposite inherited at that site was 29.6 per cent. Under Labor it went from 29.6 per cent to over 70 per cent.

The LNP government is being transparent with Queenslanders about the state of our health system. We reinstated monthly releases of performance data, a practice scrapped under those opposite. They started hiding the information. The latest monthly data, which will be released today, shows ramping improving by over two percentage points. I have said these numbers will go up and down on a monthly basis, but we are reporting the data and we are being open and transparent, as we said we would. On top of that, elective surgery waiting lists are also stabilising at a level 4,000 less than Labor's 2024 peak as a result of our record \$1.75 billion investment in Surgery Connect. Again, we are doing what we said we would. The Crisafulli LNP government is getting on with the job of delivering the only credible plan to provide care closer to home and to heal Labor's health crisis.

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology

 **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) (10.03 am): Many times over the past 12 months I have stood in this House, in estimates and before the media and spoken openly and transparently about the broken child safety system and I will continue to do so. I have said numerous times that the issues within the child safety system are far worse than I could ever have imagined. Every time we have uncovered an issue in the system, I have been open and transparent with Queenslanders. Most importantly, I want Queenslanders and our frontline staff to know we work hard to address the issues when they are uncovered. I have taken the same approach with the IT system Unify. I was briefed over two days and at the earliest opportunity shared with Queenslanders, only three days later, the failures of this system. Importantly, I told Queenslanders about the actions that would be undertaken to right the issues for our hardworking frontline staff who are facing them each and every day.

Continuing my commitment to openness and transparency, I want to inform Queenslanders of something that came to my attention on Monday. Yesterday, I was informed that the Together union had completed a survey of frontline Child Safety staff after the rollout of Unify, the Together union feedback survey on Unify dated June 2025—a survey that they handed to a staff member in the department of child safety in June but that never made its way to my office or to the office of my director-general. The survey is scathing. Over 300 staff were surveyed and rated Unify a meagre 1.46 out of 10 when asked whether Unify had helped them with their job. They said: 'Unify is not logical, it doesn't flow' and 'It has slowed down work rates by about 80%'. I thank the union for their ongoing commitment to and interest in supporting the frontline staff of Child Safety.

I would like to further update Queenslanders on the actions that have been taken. Deloitte have begun their audit to help us identify the design and functional issues and the fixes for Unify. The chief information officer of the department has been suspended pending further investigations.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for McConnel, I have cautioned you a number of times today. You are warned.

Ms CAMM: As those investigations continue, if further action against other staff is required then those actions will be taken. The nine additional staff are beginning to clear the child safety intake backlog and will continue to get to those children as quickly as possible. I would also like to confirm, as previously indicated, the department will not be able to meet in full its dataset reporting requirements while the system is being implemented. This includes the Report on Government Services and Closing the Gap reporting and we have formally advised the federal government of this.

I cannot say with confidence that the issues that have been uncovered in relation to Unify would have been raised if I had not started asking questions. The culture of silence and secrecy in the department of child safety, which developed over the past decade of decline under the former Labor government and five former ministers, is extremely concerning to me and it is why we have called for a commission of inquiry. It was a culture where not one senior executive who was involved in the rollout of Unify or those who manage our frontline staff raised any critical system issues with me since Unify's launch in April, until I was briefed on the matter on 24 September.

I was assured time and time again by the department that the program was ready to go, that there were workarounds for any potential issues that would arise and that the extra time and funding, which they were provided with in February this year by the Crisafulli government, would give them the necessary time for the system launch with all testing finalised. It turns out that the very program that I was told had been a success was putting vulnerable children at risk. If it comes out that in the lead-up to the launch of Unify and in the months following its launch departmental staff withheld or misrepresented information to me or my director-general then the strongest of action will be taken. That is what I expect and that is the standard that Queenslanders expect.

Victims of Crime

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.08 am): Before the election almost a year ago, the Crisafulli government promised Queenslanders that there would be fewer victims of crime. We promised we would restore our youth crime laws with Adult Crime, Adult Time so that there are consequences for actions. We promised we would give our frontline officers the laws and resources they need to restore safety back to our streets, homes and businesses. We promised we would deliver early intervention and rehabilitation programs to turn young lives around.

Queenslanders asked for a fresh start and that is exactly what the Crisafulli government is delivering. After 10 years of Labor inaction, we are cracking down on crime in this state. You do not need to take my word for it. The early report card is in. The number of victims of crime has gone down in the first nine months of the Crisafulli government.

We still have a long way to go, but finally we are heading in the right direction. We are finally starting to see safety restored to our community after 10 years of Labor's youth crime crisis and victim numbers rising year on year. We will not take our foot off the pedal. We will not stop strengthening our laws, boosting our police and delivering youth crime fighting programs to keep Queenslanders safe.

Adult Crime, Adult Time is making Queensland safer by holding serious repeat offenders accountable for their actions. This means fewer families waking to find their cars pinched, fewer businesses suffering the consequences of break-ins and fewer Queenslanders living in fear. That is not all, we are just getting started. Alongside our tough youth crime laws, we are also rolling out early intervention and rehabilitation programs right across the state to break the cycle of crime.

It will take time to reverse a decade of Labor's despair and destruction, but we will not stop on our mission to continue to drive down the number of Queenslanders who fall victim to crime in this state. We are delivering the fresh start Queenslanders voted for—where every person can feel safe in their home, in their workplace and in their community.

Gold Coast, Transport Infrastructure; Road Rules

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.10 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering the infrastructure needed for the Gold Coast. This includes a range of rail improvements. I am pleased to share that the new Pimpama station will open on Monday, 20 October 2025, allowing locals to catch a train closer to home from that date.

Pimpama station will be a modern and accessible station with accessible parking, lifts and priority seating on platforms. This is the first new additional train station to join the South-East Queensland rail network in nearly a decade. It is one of three new stations for the Gold Coast, along with Hope Island and Merrimac, and it will help connect South-East Queensland's growing population and one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Residents can catch buses to the station, with local bus routes realigned to service the station and new stops located directly outside the station entrance. The Crisafulli government is delivering infrastructure like this to help Queenslanders get home sooner, and is part of a broader package of major rail projects that include Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail—something that those opposites failed to deliver—and The Wave on the Sunshine Coast.

Gold Coasters have been waiting a long time to see the completion of key stages of the Coomera Connector, the first of which is the northern package. One of the standout features of this package is the nearly one-kilometre-long bridge over the Coomera River. This bridge will be a key part of improving connectivity and easing congestion for Gold Coast commuters.

As part of our rigorous pre-opening inspections, some cracking was identified in the concrete headstocks of the bridge piers. It is important to note that cracking in new concrete is not unusual. In fact, some degree of cracking is permitted under the Department of Transport and Main Roads' bridge standards. However, in this instance, the cracking was more than we would have anticipated and that is why we have initiated additional investigations to ensure the structure meets the highest safety and durability standards prior to the opening of the road. Once these investigations are complete, our government intends to open the Coomera Connector northern section, which represents a major milestone on this project.

Lastly, I have a timely reminder that not everything you read on the internet is true. Reports on social media about new road rules relating to eating, drinking non-alcoholic beverages and smoking while driving are fake. These actions are permitted in Queensland provided the driver is careful and maintains attention and proper control of their vehicle. Careless driving can land the driver with an on-the-spot fine of \$667 and three demerit points. While eating, drinking non-alcoholic beverages and smoking while driving are not illegal, it is recommended that drivers minimise any potential distractions and stay focused on the driving task. It is important to note, however, that it is illegal to smoke in a vehicle where there are children under the age of 16 present.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I note that those opposites are interjecting. Perhaps they have been following the fake news on the Leader of the Opposition's social media accounts of recent weeks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Comments by Member for Lytton, Correction and Apology

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (10.14 am): During my private member's statement on 28 August 2025, I inadvertently conflated two issues attributing a quote from the director-general of the Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business to the wrong topic. My statement should have been around my question during estimates regarding the total funding for energy bill relief for small businesses in the 2025-26 budget where the director-general stated 'there is not an allocation'. However, my contribution inadvertently referenced the resources of the Small Business Commissioner's office. As such, I withdraw my inadvertent statement, correct the record and apologise to the House for this error.

Member for Hinchinbrook, Resignation

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (10.15 am): I notify the House today of my intention to step down as the member for Hinchinbrook with the intention of putting a plan in place to become the next mayor of Townsville and the leader of the greatest city in North Queensland—Townsville.

Mr Speaker, with your indulgence, I will make a statement. In 2017 the good people of Hinchinbrook gave me the opportunity to be their member of parliament. I have taken on that role with the greatest of pride and privilege. In 2017, on just 20.9 per cent of the primary vote, with preferential voting I had the opportunity to show the people of Hinchinbrook that I was worth my salt. In a short three-year term and off the back of hard work I was able to double my primary vote to 42.5 per cent. During that short time I was out in the community making sure that those people who supported me got value for their vote.

I have been the member for Hinchinbrook for eight years. I want to reflect on a couple of things we have been able to achieve and things that I have worked on while I have been a member in this House. With the support of both sides of government, we have been able to deliver millions of dollars of road infrastructure for the Hinchinbrook electorate—to the point that I told the previous minister for transport, ‘Stop spending money between Townsville and Ingham; the residents are a little sick of the roadworks.’ We have delivered millions of dollars in school infrastructure, air conditioning and safety fences.

With the help of both sides of the House, we have been able to deliver for Port Hinchinbrook—the people who were ailing and suffering the most within the Hinchinbrook electorate. We have been able to provide a brand new sewage treatment plant with the help of Cassowary Coast Regional Council, federal government and state government funding.

Now that what I call the land-based liabilities have been completed and taken care of, I will turn to the water-based liabilities. I look forward to the future there. We have been able to deliver funding to ensure the Lucinda service jetty was saved. Thousands of people fish there every year. There was a good chance that that was going to be knocked down. There was the tourism boost through making sure that the Dungeness car park and wash bay were brought up to specification. We were able to deliver lighting for the Northern Beaches Suns AFL Club to ensure they can play in all conditions. We also saw a number of other projects get the tick of approval—social infrastructure to ensure the Hinchinbrook electorate is livable.

I think we all step into this House with the intention of improving the place that we represent. I feel that everybody in this House is trying to achieve the same thing. On behalf of my constituents and the KAP, I fought for the commercial fishing industry and the recreational fishing industry. Shooters out there had a voice in this House.

We also worked hard with the vision impaired. One of my greatest professional achievements, in my opinion, was being able to secure disability parking for those in Queensland with impaired vision. That has changed the lives of over 5,000 people in Queensland.

We fought hard for the ethanol industry. We hope and pray that there is a future for the sugar industry to diversify. This is an industry that is close to my heart and I know that, with those in this House supporting it, there will be a future for it.

We also worked with homeschooling groups to make sure that their voice was heard in this House. My office has had the opportunity over the years to work with many flood victims. I live in one of the wettest electorates in the state. From the 2018 floods right through to the 2025 floods, we have worked on the ground with mayors, SES staff and those people on the ground who can really make a difference.

One of the things I have stood for in this House is to improve the prospects of Queenslanders when it comes to reducing crime, in particular youth crime. I want people in this House to be brave. Stand up and float policies that you think and know will make a difference. Challenge the experts. We first floated, through our office, the removal of detention as a last resort. I first stood in front of the cameras calling for Adult Crime, Adult Time style legislation. From 2017 I have been pushing for relocation sentencing, and I am proud to see that the incoming government has picked up the policy in some form and that it and Circuit Breaker Sentencing are now out for consultation.

I have been proud to also sponsor the castle law petition, which has been reported today to be the largest parliamentary petition in Queensland’s history. That is monumental. I just hope that those who have signed that petition will receive the answer they want. It might not be in the form of castle law in its entirety, but people are calling for stronger self-defence laws in this state and I believe Queenslanders should be heard on that.

On a small matter but a big one for my farming community, we had opportunities to revise the Queensland Development Code around farming sheds. Also we delivered money for the clean-up of Cape Richards resort on Hinchinbrook Island, the development of the Thorsborne Trail and clean-ups on the island.

I will take this time to reflect on a couple of personal relationships and friendships I have built in this House. Once again I want to remind people in the House: if you get an opportunity, cross the chamber floor and build relationships. There are good people on both sides of the House. It has made my time here all the more special. Member for Broadwater, the way you approached your home town and my home town during the floods will never be forgotten. Member for Keppel, in the short time I have known you, you have been a fantastic chair of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee

that we sit on. Member for Ipswich West, thank you for reaching out just yesterday and giving me your well wishes. Member for Cairns, you are a great man. I have said that with your convictions you could have been on either side of the House, mate, but, I tell you what, you are a great leader for North Queensland. Member for Kawana, thank you for being generous in the short time you have been—

Mr Ryan: You walked in on his bedroom.

Mr DAMETTO: I will get to that in a sec!—in the Deputy Premier's role. If you are ever looking for a bed, he is always willing to share! He is the guy who will give you the shirt off his back.

Member for McConnel, you are a person I could go toe to toe with when on opposite sides of the chamber and we can really stare each other down—I guess, as two people with strong Italian backgrounds, we could yell at each other and get away with it—but 15 minutes later have a meeting and be able to achieve things for my electorate. That is something I will always remember and respect.

Member for Nudgee, the original chair of the first committee I ever sat on, thank you for your friendship. Member for Murrumbidgee, as the premier at the time, thank you for not only the things you did for the people of Hinchinbrook but also delivering funding that was necessary for the Hinchinbrook electorate. Members for Noosa and Maiwar, my crossbench compatriots, we have not always agreed on policy, but we have agreed on what is necessary in this House, and that is a strong crossbench—the people who float the good ideas that may one day become policy in this state.

Member for Pine Rivers, thank you for your continual banter. I do not know what you will do after I am gone! Member for Southern Downs, thank you very much for being one of those people who is always there for a hug, mate, and someone to give you a pat on the back.

Member for Theodore, in my absence from the House, good luck finding these two! You deserve an increase in pay. I would appreciate it, Clerk, if you are hearing this right now.

The member for Toohey is another man from my home town of Ingham. To have three members of parliament who currently sit in this House from the great town of Ingham, there must be something in the water—something really special there.

Finally, I want to put my name forward and say that I have a strong plan to become the next mayor of Townsville. This will be a campaign won on policy and vision. That city I call home deserves strong leadership. It has floundered for the past 18 months as we have lived in limbo. We want to make sure that the person who steps forward to run that city has the right mindset and convictions—someone who wants to instil pride and restore prosperity in the capital of North Queensland. With the help of both sides of this House, I believe I can do that if I have the opportunity to lead that great city. The way I feel about what I am doing today is that it is like, after you have been working your way in the city and doing your best to build your career, getting a tap on the shoulder to come back to run the family farm. I am going home.

I want to thank my mum; my wife; my son, Deekin; my sister, Yolanda, and her husband, Sean DeLuca; my nonna—God bless her soul; and my family and friends. Without your help, I could never have done any of this.

I want to thank the people of Hinchinbrook. You gave a guy who went to Gilroy Santa Maria a go. You gave a guy who did his apprenticeship at the sugar mill a go. You gave a guy who got into the mining industry and ran a tourism business a go—someone with no political background. I hope you are proud of what I have done for you.

I want to thank Robbie Katter, Shane Knuth and Bob Katter for the opportunities you have afforded me. As part of the Katter's Australian Party, I have been proud to serve with conviction the core values and principles of the party.

I want to thank our staff. I want to thank Brad Tassell, Conor O'Brien and John Merriman, the first people who met me in this House as staff members. I want to thank Joanne Hodgett, my original electorate officer, and Michael Sorenk, one of the greatest policy and media guys I could ever need. I want to thank Tahnee Bartolini and Kate Mason, my current electorate officer and assistant electorate officer. I want to thank Caitlin Schofield, Debbie Sartor, Taneisha Girgenti and, God rest her soul, Karen Perry—all people who worked or currently work in our office. I want to thank Cathy Holden, my policy adviser and the backbone of a lot of things I do. I want to thank Morgan Oss, who worked with me as a policy adviser for some time, as well as Sam Shaw.

I also want to thank the people of Townsville City Council whom I have worked with over the years. I want to thank people from the Hinchinbrook Shire Council. I want to thank Ramon Jayo, one of the great mayors of North Queensland who should go down in history as such. I hope to follow in your

footsteps. I am proud to call you a mate. I wish to thank the Cassowary Coast Regional Council for what you have done to work with us to solve the problems of Port Hinchinbrook, with the help of the state and federal governments.

I wish to thank every volunteer who ever stood up and worked for me at a booth, handed out a flyer or stood there with me in the hot sun to make sure our voice was heard. I want to thank the KAP for what they have done for me and the opportunities they have given me.

Finally, I do not say this from a point of self-promotion or anything like that, but I want to thank me. I want to thank me for turning up whenever I could. I want to thank me for turning up when no-one else would. I want to thank me for backing me, because I believe that if you do not back yourself who else will? That is from the point of wanting to inspire young people. I want to inspire the next fitter out there who does not think he is good enough. I want to inspire the next kid who thinks he is not doing well at school: you can become something. I want to inspire the next leaders of this state. Some people might say I am closing a chapter; for me, I am continuing a journey. It is my time to resign from this House, and I thank you all.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Member for Hinchinbrook, Resignation



Mr SPEAKER: For the information of honourable members, I will read the letter that was handed to me by the former member for Hinchinbrook. It states—

I am writing to formally submit my resignation as the Member for Hinchinbrook effective from today, Tuesday 14 October 2025.

It has been an honour and a privilege to represent the people of Hinchinbrook in the Queensland Parliament since 2017. Serving my community and advocating for North Queensland has been a highlight of my life. I look forward to continuing to do so in future roles.

I would like to wish you all the best for the remainder of the 58th Parliament.

Best Regards,

Nick Dametto MP

Member for Hinchinbrook

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 14 October 2025, from the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Nick Dametto MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Pat Weir, tendering his resignation as the member for Hinchinbrook [\[1543\]](#).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Comments by Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Retraction and Apology



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.31 am): During debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 on 12 June 2025, several members of the opposition threw into question the ability, impartiality and integrity of frontline clinicians serving on HHS boards. During the debate, the member for Algester selectively quoted the Integrity Commissioner to form an argument against putting frontline clinicians on health boards. In making her argument, the member stated—

The health minister cannot guarantee that an employer or employee in their board role could be impartial and/or objective.

In putting forth these arguments, the member for Algester failed to provide the complete advice from the Integrity Commissioner, which stated—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My understanding is that this is a period for personal explanations. Listening to the minister's contribution, I do not hear a personal explanation being delivered.

Mr SPEAKER: I believe the minister is making a personal explanation. The minister may continue.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: The commissioner stated—

... if this proposal proceeds, I do not propose any further amendments to the Bill as I am of the view that the existing statutory requirements regarding disclosure and management of conflicts of interest are adequate.

In examining the argument put forward by the member for Algester, I applied the member's own logic to a real-life employee/employer relationship that currently exists in one of our HHS boards. Despite being present in the chamber, the member did not take objection at that time. The member has subsequently written to you, Mr Speaker, to complain about that statement. I retract and apologise for my statement to assist the House in its future consideration.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude at 11.34 am.

White, Ms C

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (10.34 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. The family of Christine White join us in the gallery today. The Ipswich Hospital report states that Christine was moved off the ramp due to 'acuity in both ED and within the community for QAS'. Can the minister advise if Christine was moved to the waiting room so the hospital could meet his new ramping KPIs? I table the hospital's report, released under RTI.

Tabled paper: Copy of Queensland Government report re Christine White hospital visit redacted [1544].

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question in relation to this matter. Of course, my heartfelt sympathies are with the family of Ms White, as are those of the HHS and the government. Understandably, there is great distress at her recent passing, which was unexpected. It has led to a great deal of concern in relation to the treatment that Ms White received at the Ipswich Hospital which is perfectly understandable. I share those concerns.

As a result of being contacted by Mr David White, who wrote to my office the day after, I believe, Ms White passed away, on 29 August, we initiated an immediate set of actions. Mr White wrote to me on 29 August. On that day my office responded with condolences and advised that the matter would be actioned as a matter of priority. Subsequently, on 15 September, after my office received information from the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, I wrote to Mr White and provided him with the information that had been provided to me by the HHS.

On 16 September a family meeting was held at the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, in accordance with my request to the health service that they do everything possible to engage with Ms White's family to ensure they were properly informed and to deal with the concerns they had with respect to the series of events that occurred at the hospital on that tragic evening. On 17 September Ms Brooke Watson and Ms Rosemary White wrote to the Premier and other ministers. On 19 September Rosemary White also wrote to me, and on 19 September Brooke Watson cc-ed me in on an email in response to Rosemary White's correspondence. There are many children in the family and everyone is keen to know what is going on.

On 26 September the Queensland Ambulance Service met with Mr David White and another sibling to discuss what occurred. On 26 September, while I was on leave, Mr White wrote to me again. I have also had a number of other pieces of correspondence. Yesterday, on my first day back, I wrote to four members of the White family and to the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow health minister advising of the steps that we had taken.

I want to be very clear about this: a full examination is warranted and a full examination is occurring. This matter is being handled sensitively by the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, and they are continuing to engage with the White family. The allegation made by the opposition in relation to a 2.5-hour KPI is completely and utterly denied. There is no financial incentive. That is a measure of clinical health standards.

(Time expired)

White, Ms C

Mr DICK: My question is to the for Minister for Health. The family of Christine White join us in the gallery today. The family strongly believe their mother was the victim of new KPIs imposed by the Crisafulli LNP government. I table a copy of the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service's service agreement outlining those KPIs and a relevant *Courier-Mail* article.

Tabled paper: Schedule 3 Performance Measures for Hospital and Health Services and a copy of an article from the *Sunday Mail*, dated 28 September 2025, titled 'Heartless KPIs killed our mum' [1545].

Will the minister repeal the brutal KPIs put on our frontline health heroes?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, a former health minister, for his question regarding the tragic circumstances around the death of Ms Christine White. I reiterate that our condolences are with the family in relation to Ms White's recent passing and we acknowledge their terrible sadness. Being a former health minister, the member would be aware of Labor's ramping record at the Ipswich Hospital. Those opposite inherited a ramping rate—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Those opposite are asking about KPIs, and the effective delivery of health services is determined by how quickly and how well people are seen. Those opposite inherited a ramping rate of 20.3 per cent, which they allowed to surge to 63.5 per cent. That continues to impact the people of Ipswich to this very day. That continues to be the case. We are committed to improving the ramping rate in Ipswich and across Queensland. All hospitals are asked to measure ramping events that last longer than 2½ hours because clinicians tell us that that is a lead indicator of patient safety risk. People not being seen within time is a lead indicator. That is why we do our best to measure it, to see what we can do to do better.

We said we would be data driven. We said we would look at the measures that the clinicians tell us are the most important. We use this information to direct support to areas where ramping is at its worst. When we know that there is a problem because we are recording the reality of that problem, in real time and reporting on it, we then direct resources to it, as we are at Ipswich Hospital, where we are investing in transit lounges in order to be able to move patients through the system more quickly so that those who present at emergency departments can be seen more quickly. Bed block is the issue. We have to address that issue so that we do not see more instances of people receiving poorer health outcomes because they are languishing in the emergency department for too long.

The measure is clinically supported and recognises that remaining on an ambulance ramp for more than 2½ hours is a lead indicator of patient safety. I want to make it clear: there is no financial disincentive or penalty, as has been promoted by those opposite, for not meeting the 2½ hours. There is no financial penalty. There is no disincentive. I noticed in the reports that claims that that was the case were being made. It is not the case. It is a measure so that we can improve. It is not a measure that says, 'You have to meet it or you won't get paid.' That is completely false. That allegation made by those opposite is shameful. They should be ashamed of it and they should apologise to the people and hardworking clinicians at the Ipswich Hospital.

(Time expired)

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

Mr BAILLIE: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How has the Crisafulli LNP government delivered for Queensland in the year since the October state election, and is the Premier aware of any approaches that failed to turn up and show up for Queenslanders?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for Townsville for the question. The answer to his question is that we have delivered as a team with great members like the member for Townsville, who has been prepared to fight hard and work hard for North Queensland. We are a government that promised and is delivering for all of Queensland.

So it is today we learn formally that there will be a by-election for the seat of Hinchinbrook in North Queensland. As members of this House know, by-elections are very tough for governments. There is no doubt about that, particularly when you do not hold the seat—but we will show up. We will give people a chance to vote and display their values. They will have an opportunity to vote for all political parties. That is the way it should be. They are the values that I have seen from members on both sides of this House. I reflect on the by-election in Stafford many years ago and I reflect on the by-election in Ipswich West where political movements were prepared to stand up and have a go, as we did in the tragic case of Stretton—and that was a tragic passing of a member of this House.

In the end you stand up because you give people an opportunity, even when it is tough, to reflect on the values and the vision you have. I look at the seat of Hinchinbrook and I see all the values that have made this state so great over the years. I talk about the opportunity for someone living in the northern beaches who goes to work at Phosphate Hill, where their jobs have now been saved: they deserve representation. I think of a young haul out driver. Today she might be going to work cutting cane and in the off-season goes to work on the family farm: she deserves representation. I think of the husband and wife in Cardwell working hard in a cafe: they deserve representation. That is what ticker is.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton!

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is about turning up and showing up when the going gets tough.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, you are warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I have seen the comments. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition will not confirm if they are running and then he will not confirm backing up the opposition leader after it. I see the political party today. The political party says they are looking for expressions of interest but they will not say whether they are running. The Leader of the Opposition will not even talk about the by-election. Do members know why? It is because he will not turn up and stand on his record because his record is one of higher crime. His record is one of attacking the agricultural industry. His record is one of going to war with the mining industry. The Leader of the Opposition knows that this by-election will not be good for the Leader of the Opposition because he is somebody who North Queenslanders have seen right through. He knows his record and he knows his leadership is hanging by a thread.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will have some order before we go any further.

White, Ms C

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. The family of Christine White join us today in the gallery. Why has the minister not personally spoken to or met with Christine White's family after it was first raised with the minister in August?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the shadow treasurer for her question. Of course I understand the anguish and the loss being experienced by Christine White's family. The loss of a loved one in a hospital setting is always a cause of those emotions. Recently, as many members in this House know, I experienced that at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital with the loss of my own father. They are difficult times. You search for answers and you ask questions. That is human nature. That is what we do. You seek to improve things for the future. You seek to deliver a better outcome so that what you feel may not happen to someone else in the future. That is what as a government we are trying to do. We are trying to deliver better services and better outcomes.

I have said it in the past and I said it yesterday: the system is not perfect. The system has been under tremendous strain. For 10 years the numbers have got steadily worse. We are working to fix those issues. Whether it is the investment that we announced yesterday into MRIs and CT scanners, whether it is the transit lounges, whether it is securing better pay and conditions for our hardworking clinicians and nurses including those at the Ipswich Hospital, we are investing in our health services so that health outcomes for Queenslanders are better no matter where they are. I say to Christine's family that we have heard you and we are listening to what you have said.

The circumstances surrounding Ms White's admission to the Ipswich Hospital in the late evening on that day are complex. I have seen the material. I cannot disclose it for privacy reasons. They are complex circumstances. The matter has also been referred to the Office of the Health Ombudsman which is also appropriate. The Health Ombudsman is the independent body set up to inquire into matters where there are concerns and allegations raised with respect to the treatment provided to patients. Information about this has been provided to Ms White's family through a variety of means. As I say, I have written to Ms White's family also.

It is appropriate that those independent bodies carry out those investigations. I personally expressed in my correspondence to Mr White on the day that he wrote to me, and the family through Mr White, my condolences on the loss of Christine, of their much beloved mother. That is the appropriate course of action to enable the independent Office of the Health Ombudsman to carry out a proper investigation.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Infrastructure

Mr JAMES: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is continuing to deliver critical infrastructure in regional Queensland, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any approaches that did not turn up or show up for regional Queensland?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for Mulgrave for the question. He is a strong advocate for the people of Far North Queensland, as are our other two wonderful members in Far North Queensland and North Queensland. The member asks about showing up and turning up. The Crisafulli government turns up all the time, time and time again, particularly in regional Queensland and Far North Queensland. Recently the honourable member had the pleasure of announcing the new Mount Peter Priority Development Area, which will unlock 18,500 new homes, 200 of which are fast-tracked through an early-release area. This is something the Labor Party could never sign off on. They had a pretty important member up there, I might add, the former member for Mulgrave, who was pretty important in the Labor Party. He could not get the PDA across the line, but we have because of this member for Mulgrave's advocacy. When fully developed, the Mount Peter PDA will cater for over 42,000 new North Queensland residents. Well done, member for Mulgrave, for achieving more in a year than the Labor Party could ever achieve in that electorate.

We are turning up for the people of Hinchinbrook. As the Crisafulli government's \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund is rolled out across the state over four years, it will deliver \$36.8 million for the people of Hinchinbrook including: a \$29.5 million boost for the Northern Beaches Trunk Road Infrastructure Package, unlocking 2,600 homes; and \$7.3 million towards two Hinchinbrook Shire Council projects that will unlock 108 homes.

In contrast, we have seen the Leader of the Opposition dillydally about whether he is in or not in for the people of Hinchinbrook. A *Courier-Mail* article with the headline 'Cameron Dick refuses to say if Steven Miles will be under pressure after by-election' states—

Mr Dick, asked if Labor could win Hinchinbrook, said the party would "consider fighting hard".

The Liberal National Party does not consider fighting hard; we fight hard for the people of Hinchinbrook all the time. The fact they are 'considering' fighting for the people of Hinchinbrook shows the Labor Party has given up on North Queensland. The Labor Party has given up on the people of Hinchinbrook. In the last 24 hours they said they have issued an expression of interest for people to see if they should run. The Liberal National Party is going to run a candidate for the people of Hinchinbrook.

Opposition members: Who?

Mr BLEIJIE: You cannot ask who; you are only running an EOI process. It is hard for the Labor candidate to apply for the EOI because the Labor Party candidate has already been chosen by the Katter party. They already have their candidate in the field. This is a stitch-up by the Leader of the Opposition. He is now doing a fake EOI. His candidate, the Labor Party hack, is already running for the Katter party. Be honest with the people of Far North Queensland and North Queensland because they have given up on you, mate!

(Time expired)

White, Ms C

Mr BAILEY: My question is to the Minister for Health. The family of Christine White was told by the HHS that a rapid access doctor is not rostered overnight at the Ipswich Hospital. Will the minister ensure that rapid access doctors are available at every hospital, 24/7?

Mr NICHOLLS: Obviously, the discussions between the HHS and Ms White's family are matters I cannot comment on because I was not at those meetings, but I accept that the material that has been relayed by the shadow health minister is accurate and an accurate reflection of it.

The staffing needs and requirements of our HHSs are determined by our HHSs. That is why we have hospital and health service boards. That is why we have 16 of them. That is why they are independently run—in the same way that the Police Service is independently run and in the same way that the fire brigades are independently run. The experts are the people best placed to determine their staffing requirements.

We have provided the HHSs with a 10 per cent increase in their revenue this year—\$33.1 billion in the health budget, of which approximately three-quarters goes directly to the hospital and health services. We have increased the size of the workforce by over 4,500 since this government came to office. More doctors, more nurses, more ward staff, more physiotherapists and more clinicians are all being employed, and they are being employed on better terms and conditions. As I said, we have put more money into transfer initiatives and transfer lounges. We are putting money into 24/7 discharge arrangements so that doctors can discharge on weekends and not just Monday to Friday.

These are all things we have done in the last 12 months. The member for Miller and those opposite, including three former health ministers, had 10 years to implement those changes and failed to do so. As a result, ramping rates reached record levels under those opposite. They threw their hands up in the air and said, 'There's nothing more we can do about it.' We are doing something about ramping rates and elective surgery rates, and we are doing it with the advice of clinicians.

I acknowledge the people who run the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service because they have been left with a difficult task—an underinvestment, a failed capacity expansion program and no investment in transfer wards. We are providing the funds that are necessary to enable those doctors and administrators to make appropriate decisions. Again, I pass on my condolences to Ms White's family. We are working with you. I understand the West Moreton HHS is also prepared to meet with you again.

Community Safety

Ms MARR: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government continuing to deliver improvements to community safety across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any approaches that did not turn up and show up for victims of crime?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. I know how important community safety is to her and her community. In fact, only a few weeks ago I was in Townsville, where we announced more early intervention programs for North Queensland. We now have three fantastic organisations delivering our Kickstarter program in North Queensland: NQ Ummah Care, Silver Lining Foundation Australia and Townsville Fire. That is not all. In the last month we have rolled out four new Staying on Track programs for North and Far North Queensland: Jabalbina, Namu Collective and Shine for Kids. They are all delivering the Crisafulli government's nation-leading Staying on Track program, which provides every single youth who goes into our detention centres with 12 months of rehabilitative support to break the cycle of crime.

We are turning up and showing up for the people of North Queensland, and that includes the member's neighbouring electorate of Hinchinbrook. We are turning up and showing up for North Queensland because the shocking reality is that Labor left us with a legacy where 96 per cent of youths released from detention centres went on to reoffend—reoffend in the member's own electorate of Thuringowa, reoffend in the electorate of Hinchinbrook and reoffend in the electorate of Townsville. That is the shocking legacy Labor left us with.

We are turning up with our Staying on Track program, which provides 12 months of intensive rehabilitation for every single one of those youths to turn the crime tide. Under Labor, sometimes youth offenders were released without even knowing where they were going to live. They were released without a plan. Sometimes they were released from our detention centres without even having anyone to pick them up. The only support the previous Labor government gave them was 72 hours, but even then the Auditor-General found that almost 30 per cent of serious repeat offenders released from our detention centres did not even receive the Labor government's 72 hours of support. That is the shocking reality the Labor government left us.

We are turning up. We are going to turn up in Hinchinbrook. The question for those opposite is: will they turn up and show up for the people of North Queensland, for the people of Hinchinbrook? Will they stand on their record, on their policies, and turn up? Will they run a candidate? We know there are expressions of interest right now, but this is a test of the opposition leader's leadership. If he will not stand up and show up for the people of Hinchinbrook, for the people of North Queensland, then he is proving that he cannot stand on his own policies and his own record. I challenge the Labor Party to turn up and show up for the people of North Queensland.

(Time expired)

White, Ms C

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Health. Christine White's family was told to RTI their mother's clinical notes at a cost of about \$65. Similar documents were provided by the Ambulance Service without an RTI application. Will the minister refund the cost of the RTI application?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Macalister for her question. As I indicated, upon being first contacted by Mr David White on 29 August we responded to the family through Mr White on that day expressing our condolences. I then instructed the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service—to

the maximum extent possible, in accordance with existing laws: that is, the privacy laws and the patient confidentiality laws and requirements that exist—to assist the family with as much information as they possibly could. Offers were made for meetings to be held. In fact, most recently, as I am advised, the family met with the QAS on 26 September. I am also advised that they met with the director of medical services, the director of emergency services, the nurse unit manager of emergency services and the consumer liaison officer at West Moreton Hospital and Health Service on 16 September 2025. At those meetings, detailed information was provided, including details of the timings, information on the ramp, information of the treatments that were provided to Ms White and a number of other details.

Subsequent to that, as I understand, the family of Ms White have sought further information and the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service have asked the family to share a list of their questions with them so they can provide a response to those questions. That is all perfectly correct. It complies with the legislation and it complies with the law.

In relation to the RTI process, medical records are sensitive personal information and they are subject to privacy protection, even after a person passes away. They are the property of that person. There is a well-established legislative process to access another person's medical records under the RTI Act, and there is no scope in the legislation to bypass the right to information application process, including on compassionate grounds. The legislation does not allow it to occur. The act also mandates an application fee. Section 24 of the act clearly states that the application fee cannot be waived. These legal requirements have been in place since they were introduced by the Bligh Labor government 16 years ago. They have not been changed once. For the vast majority of those years—for 13 of those 16 years—those opposite have enforced exactly the same rules. I am advised—because I asked about it—that they have never waived those rules.

(Time expired)

Police Resources

Mrs POOLE: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government continuing to invest in our Police Service to keep Queenslanders safe, and is the minister aware of any approaches that did not turn up and show up for our hardworking police?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for the question. The member knows firsthand what it is like to be on the front line. She knows the risks that our police and all our frontline first responders take and the sacrifices that they make. She knows how important it is that when our frontline police call for backup the backup arrives. When our frontline police and our first responders call for backup, the worst thing you can do is promise to send backup but not send the backup. That is what we saw during the last 10 years under those opposite.

In stark contrast, the Crisafulli government is delivering for our police and the people of North Queensland and the whole of Queensland. As the Premier advised the House this morning, we have delivered 1,000 new constables to the front line right across Queensland in the last 12 months. I have been proud to meet a lot of those 1,000 new constables at their swearing in ceremonies, as have other members as well.

We are not finished there, however. There are currently 680 recruits in both academies and we are looking to swearing those recruits in. There are 1,500 in the pipeline because we know that our police have been calling for backup and the Crisafulli government is sending that backup. Also, pleasingly, the attrition rate is improving after coming off record highs. It is now hovering under three per cent. We now have a net increase of 453 more police on the front line across Queensland. In the last term of the former government, they delivered 174 police officers, after promising 1,450. They promised to send 1,450 more police across Queensland and they failed to do so.

We not only have more police, but those police now have the laws and resources they need to do their job, including Adult Crime, Adult Time. There have been 3,000 juvenile offenders arrested on 14,000 crimes across Queensland under Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation. We have seen the number of victims of the big three—robbery, unlawful entry and unlawful use of a motor vehicle—has declined to the tune of 12 per cent for break and enters, 15 per cent for unlawful use and 12 per cent for robbery. This is working.

We have also expanded Jack's Law. I am happy to advise the House that in the last few months since we expanded Jack's Law and made it permanent the police have seized 344 weapons off the streets of Queensland. That is four weapons a day. We will never know what those weapons could have been used for, but we are sending the backup. We know that when our police call for backup—as

they have been—under this government it will arrive because we will turn up and show up for our police and victims across Queensland. The question today is will those opposite turn up for the people of North Queensland at the upcoming by-election.

Mrs Frecklington: Will they show up?

Mr PURDIE: Yes, exactly right. Will they turn up and show up like we are for police across Queensland?

(Time expired)

White, Ms C

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister advise why comments made by Christine White's family about her death were hidden from both the minister's and the Premier's Facebook accounts as recently as last night?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for his question. I am pleased to know that the member follows my Facebook account and the Premier's Facebook account in such minute detail. Obviously, he spends hours trawling over the Facebook pages of his political opponents. Good luck to him, I say, because if you look on those Facebook pages you will see all the good news that is occurring across Queensland as we turn up and as we show up and as we deliver for Queenslanders—unlike those opposite. Members will find that the information on our Facebook pages is accurate as well. That is something else that the member for Bancroft might learn something about.

There are many, many posts made on our Facebook pages. I must confess that I look at some of them but I do not look at all of them. They are a means of communicating information, as would be expected. They are commonplace. I note that the member for Murrumba has a Facebook page and that his Facebook page covers the full spectrum of events that he goes to. The member for Murrumba is often deleting not only comments on his Facebook posts but his own posts themselves. When it comes to deleting Facebook posts, the Leader of the Opposition is the world champion. As recently as only yesterday—as I understand it from reading media reports—he has been forced to delete Facebook posts, misconstruing and misleading Queenslanders, as is his record in this place.

The passing of anyone in our hospitals in any circumstance is far too serious for the cheap political games being played by those opposite. Cheap political stunts that those opposite are using to try to turn distress into political advantage is a disgrace and says far more about those opposite than the hardworking clinicians, paramedics and staff at the Ipswich Hospital whose efforts they seek to denigrate.

(Time expired)

Education System

Mr HUTTON: My question is to the Minister for Education and the Arts.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Just pause. Member for Miller, you are warned. We have silence when a question is being asked; you know that. Member for Keppel, could you start your question again, please.

Mr HUTTON: My question is to the Minister for Education and the Arts. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering for students across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any approaches that have not delivered improved outcomes for Queensland school students?

Mr LANGBROEK: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know that he is a proud state school graduate and a proud state schoolteacher and I know how hard he works as chair of our education committee. As members know, we are delivering for the state's education system across a range of different areas. We have struck an historic agreement with the federal government to ensure that the future of state education will be free and sustainable. We are reducing red tape for teachers so they can focus on students. We are tackling bullying with Behavioural Boost strategies, funding and programs. We are supporting NAPLAN, which those opposite never did. We have already seen participation rise. We are investing in reading, literacy and numeracy with screening tools to assess students early in their education to ensure they do not fall through the gaps.

We have done all this while working with our public sector, but we are also very supportive of our private sector and we continue to support educators across the spectrum. We do not—I reiterate: we do not—profiteer from the state school sector. That is against all ethical obligations that we have as a government and, furthermore, as members of parliament we also uphold the same conduct as

individuals. To this end, as education minister I have to call out the Leader of the Opposition. Our education system has systems and protocols around how members of parliament work with schools. These protocols are not new; we inherited them from the Miles Labor government. Early investigations revealed that the Leader of the Opposition has breached those protocols and ethical principles in at least three ways. He visited state schools without permission. He engaged in political spruiking on social media posts following this. When called out for this, he edited his own social media, and I table copies of two of those—one prior and one edited—in which he is actually spruiking the LNP 50-cent fares.

Tabled paper: Extract from social media, undated, featuring a post by the member for Murrumbidgee, Hon. Steven Miles, in relation to leadership [1546].

Tabled paper: Further extract from social media, undated, featuring a post by the member for Murrumbidgee, Hon. Steven Miles, in relation to leadership [1547].

Isn't that outrageous? The worst thing is, as we have heard, he turns up where we do not want him to be, but he will not turn up where we do want him to be—that is, in Hinchinbrook. How can any member of parliament with any credibility use the stage of a state school speech on leadership to spruik along political lines? He is someone who often rails against private enterprise, but he also used our state education system to engage and support a commercial business that charged schools for the dubious privilege of hearing from him. I table copies of three invoices, sent to West End State School and Burpengary State Secondary College.

Tabled paper: Tax invoice, dated 20 February 2025, issued by Full Spectrum Education to Burpengary State Secondary College [1548].

Tabled paper: Tax invoice, dated 24 February 2025, issued by Full Spectrum Group to West End State School [1549].

The layers of unethical and dishonourable conduct are numerous. It is very frustrating that, as education minister, I have to defend our education system and remind those opposite that it is not their playground to do with as they wish.

(Time expired)

Ministerial Responsibility

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Health. I table an article in which the minister, then opposition leader, called for a minister under investigation by the CCC to be stood aside.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 17 March 2017, titled 'Mark Bailey should stand aside: Nicholls' [1550].

Can the minister advise if he stands by his statement?

Mr NICHOLLS: I would like to see that story. I am sure it was well written and accurately recorded what I said, but I would like to refer to the minister to whom I think it referred. That is certainly an old photo, I would have to say. There is no doubt about that: a 'failure of leadership'. Then minister Bailey is the minister who—

Mrs Frecklington: Which time?

Mr NICHOLLS: 'Which time?' is a good question. That is a very good question. The article states that I called on the then premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, to remove the then minister from his role. I do remember that, because that was the infamous mangocube affair. That was where that minister had deleted emails that he had been sending to his mates in the ETU in relation to the appointment of members to the board of electricity-generating companies. Yes, I stand by those statements. He should have been stood down—absolutely. We remember—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Mr NICHOLLS: We remember—

Mr Bleijie: It was worth the wait.

Mr NICHOLLS: It was. It has taken long enough to get here. We remember those exact circumstances that occurred because for months and months the member for Miller denied any wrongdoing. He said he had not done it at all. He denied the existence of the mangocube account. He said, 'What emails? Where are they? Where's the evidence?' We found out that he had deleted the evidence himself; over 500, or some similar number, of his messages had been deleted. Then the CCC said, 'You've admitted that you've removed these emails. We are going to investigate you.' Then he was forced to step aside because he put his hand up and said he had done something wrong. He escaped prosecution by the skin of his teeth because they were able, after some considerable expense—taxpayers' expense—to recover them from the deleted file they had been sent to. That is the history of the member for Miller—

Mr SPEAKER: Time has expired.

Mr NICHOLLS:—and that is the history of the leadership—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr NICHOLLS:—that the member for Murrumba wants to rely on.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, time has expired!

Public Service

Mr LISTER: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier outline the importance of maintaining apolitical work environments for Queensland public servants, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any examples where this tenet may not have been upheld?

Mr BLEIJIE: I want to thank the member for Southern Downs for his question and thank him again for his time in the last couple of weeks, in the great electorate of Southern Downs, visiting the charities and businesses, community groups and farmers impacted by laws put in place by Labor which we are fixing with our new planning framework. The member asks a serious question of me as industrial relations minister with respect to the apolitical nature of such appointments. Yes, we absolutely uphold that. I do have some commentary to make in answer to the question that the member asks.

I say to honourable members that we saw on Channel 9 last night that the Leader of the Opposition does not share the same view as the LNP government, going into state schools without appropriate permissions and spewing political rot to state school students. Usually when a member of parliament goes on a speaking tour they have left this chamber. They go on the speaking tour after they retire from office.

A government member: It won't be long!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. It is a bit early, but it will not be long. I think the opposition leader has hit the speaking circuit just a couple of months too early, because we know the killing season is upon us. He knows that all too well because he did the Christmas coup against Palaszczuk. I suspect the knives are being sharpened for his coup this Christmas, although I think he is preparing himself on the speaking tour already.

More seriously, the honourable education minister has raised allegations—and I thank him for investigating the opposition leader for the stunts he is carrying out in going into schools. The opposition leader's comments on 9News last night were that he is not an ambassador for this program. It is interesting that the Labor Party want to talk about social media posts this morning because so do I, and here is one I prepared earlier. On the social media post from Mr Ben Maher, who is the founder and director of the company that is putting Mr Miles into speaking slots, someone named Chris says—

Good work Ben. What is Stephen Miles's relevance?

We are all asking that, but it is a great question and I know that a lot of members of the Labor Party are asking the same question about Mr Miles's relevance, but I got sidetracked. The response by the founder of this company says—

He is one of our community ambassadors.

The opposition leader was denying it and misleading Queenslanders on the Channel 9 news last night and now the founder is saying that Mr Miles is one of its ambassadors. I table that.

Tabled paper: Extract from social media, undated, featuring a post of the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Steven Miles, regarding relevance [1551].

Which is it? The time is up for the opposition leader. He also incited violence weeks ago with a social media post where he was trying to get people to rise up against the government and burn down government buildings as they did in Nepal. So much so is he not up to the job that he deleted that post a day later. He supported the former member for Caloundra's defrauding taxpayers of \$12,000 and he continues to support the member for Cairns. The reality is that Steven Miles, the opposition leader, is not up to the job.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: My question is to the Minister for Health. Last month it was revealed that hundreds of patients were impacted by failures at Townsville's urology department—something the HHS knew about for weeks before it was made public. Why did the minister hide this major health failure from Queenslanders until after he went on leave?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for the question in relation to the Townsville Hospital and Health Service and want to acknowledge the work that is being done by the Townsville Hospital and Health Service. The Townsville Hospital and Health Service is chaired by Mr Tony Mooney. Members in this place might not necessarily know who Tony Mooney was, but he was the former mayor of Townsville.

Mr Stevens: AWU faction.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am helpfully assisted by the member for Mermaid Beach that he is a former AWU aligned member. Tony Mooney also wanted to be in this place. He was unable to do so but continues his strong association with the Labor Party, but that does not mean that he is not capable of being the chair of the board up there. I have worked closely with Mr Mooney over the last 12 months in respect of the problems at the Townsville Hospital. Its primary problem, of course, is hospital ramping, and that hospital ramping has been allowed to develop over a decade of decline under those opposite, noting that there are three former health ministers still sitting on the other side who refuse to accept any responsibility whatsoever for their record. Statewide, hospital ramping was just over 15 per cent when the member for Woodford—the former member for Greenslopes—

A government member: Woodridge.

Mr NICHOLLS: Woodridge.

Mr Dick: Get it right!

Mr NICHOLLS: 'Get it right' says the fellow who could not say what the price of a litre of milk was when he was asked when he had been appointed as the treasurer. Good job!

Government members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Exactly. Firstly, I completely refute the member for Inala's assertion in relation to the timing of information provided to me or my office with respect to the matter. The first point is that we want to make sure those people who might be affected by the urology issues that have been discovered at Townsville are treated and looked after properly. Currently, there are 576 patients whose cases have been identified for review, and of course the director-general has commissioned a part 9 investigation into the administration, management, delivery and clinical governance of urology services at the hospital. That information came to light after I went on leave. However, that was not the end of the matter, because my acting—

Ms Boyd: Why'd you go on leave?

Mr NICHOLLS: They mention leave. I hear the word 'leave' mentioned in an interjection and I take the interjection from those opposite.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, time has expired.

(Time expired)

Youth Parliament

Miss DOOLAN: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. Can the minister explain the importance of Youth Parliament in the development of Queensland's future leaders, and is the minister aware of any instances where leadership was not shown?

Mr O'CONNOR: The Queensland Youth Parliament is a longstanding apolitical institution of youth engagement in our state, and I thank the member for Pumicestone for that question. It was the 30th anniversary of the program this year and we had record numbers of young people apply. Some 471 wanted to take part, which showed their interest in this wonderful institution and in government in this state. There are members of this chamber who have participated in the program. I want to again acknowledge the member for Pumicestone, who is one of those success stories of the program and who just a couple of years ago was the youth member for Glass House before being elected as the youngest woman ever elected to this chamber. I also acknowledge that the member for Morayfield also did the program.

The respect shown to this program is important and this program is successful because members respect the apolitical nature of it—that is, all members but one, and I wonder if we can guess who the member in this chamber is who just had to take it too far and had to do something that they stuffed up and had to rectify. Of course it is the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition has gone from using fake young Queenslanders by pretending that they were real when in fact he had young Labor members come up to him and tell him how great he is. He has gone from that to using real young Queenslanders as political props.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gaven.

Mr O'CONNOR: The Leader of the Opposition did not turn up to any actual events.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gaven!

Mr O'CONNOR: Rather, he just rocked up to get his social media done, lurking around—

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, I cautioned you twice. You continued to interject. You are warned.

Mr O'CONNOR: The Leader of the Opposition came along to interview young youth members about Labor policy, asking about their political affiliations, and then posted a video without their approval which included the full IDs of young Queenslanders that were visible. I table a screenshot of that social media video.

Tabled paper: Extract from social media, undated, featuring a post by the member for Murrumbidgee. Hon. Steven Miles, titled 'The Federal Labor' [1552].

I can reveal that the young Queenslanders who run the program realised this was a problem. They contacted the opposition leader's office to have the video pulled down. They showed more leadership than the Leader of the Opposition did. It is yet another stuff-up and yet another inappropriate social media post that had to be deleted by the Leader of the Opposition. This is a program that has young Queenslanders from the age of 15 in it, and there are clear protocols and guidelines around how information should be shared. They were completely breached, which is why that post had to be deleted. Young Queenslanders are not political props. It shows an appalling lack of judgement and it again shows that the Leader of the Opposition is just not up to the job.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for Health. In the same week as the failure at Townsville's urology department, it was also revealed that a patient had died in September after a scan and referral failures at Caboolture Hospital. Did the minister know of these failures before he jetted off on annual leave?

Mr NICHOLLS: What a day! We have the member for Murrumbidgee more interested in Facebook posts than he is in representing the people of Murrumbidgee, and now we have the member for Gladstone more interested in my holidays than he is in representing the people of Gladstone. We have an opposition leader who cannot keep a Facebook post from breakfast to dinner.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: Seriously, one would have thought those opposite would have learned by now—from the party that condoned their own leader going on holidays a month after taking the job to having a former deputy leader and a former minister jet off to Whistler and have to alter their material statement of interest after being put up in free accommodation.

A government member: Splendour in the Grass.

Mr NICHOLLS: Then there was Splendour in the Grass.

Government members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, one day at estimates and off to the Big4 holiday park. How petty, how juvenile and how unworthy of an opposition can you be?

On this side of the House, unlike on that side of the House, we are a team that works together. We are a team that works together to deliver for Queenslanders—not riven by petty factional jealousies. The member for Woodridge failed to support the member for Murrumbidgee about running a candidate in Hinchinbrook. It took them time to make their minds up about that. They failed to stand up and deal with that.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Quarrelling across the chamber will cease.

Mr NICHOLLS: Again, these matters are far too important for those opposite to be trying to play cheap political games with. In fact, upon becoming aware of the problems that were identified as a result of the report at Caboolture Hospital, I directed the director-general—because we started off with one—to carry out a thorough investigation before I went on leave. Yes, I was aware of the one case; yes, I discussed it with the director-general; yes, the director-general and I were concerned about the failures; and, yes, we directed metro health and their director of medical services to undertake a full scan. That is the appropriate way to go. We are a responsible government.

(Time expired)

Public Service

Mr KEMPTON: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Can the Attorney outline the importance of maintaining the integrity and independence of our Public Service and outline any instances where this has not been upheld?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the member for Cook for the question. It is wonderful there is a member in this parliament who has turned up and shown up not just once, but twice, as the member for Cook. Welcome back, member for Cook. All members on this side of the chamber show up not only for South-East Queensland but for all of Queensland.

I am asked about integrity in the Public Service and government organisations—something those in the opposition obviously know nothing about. They should, because they spent taxpayers' money commissioning the Coaldrake review into culture and accountability. The Leader of the Opposition would do well to read the report once again. This is a person who cannot understand that integrity with respect to children in this great state should be of the absolute highest standard. Even the shadow attorney-general knows to seek permission to go into courthouses, for example. I thank the shadow attorney-general for doing that; she contacts the relevant people to do that. Who does the Leader of the Opposition contact to get approval? Does he get the approval of the children's parents? No. Does he seek the approval of the Minister for Education? No. He just waltzes on in. The Deputy Premier said that he is already on his speaking tour. I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition in respect of children: please stop. We do not need children to be brainwashed by the Leader of the Opposition. Bringing politics to primary school children—

Mr Bleijie: Stop scaring the children!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection: stop scaring the children. Putting the licence of a 16-year-old on the Leader of the Opposition's social media is shameful. It is disgraceful behaviour from someone who should know better. They put the licence of a child on social media, and the only one who had the intestinal fortitude to have it taken down was the Minister for Youth, who had to tell the opposition to do it. The opposition leader should hang his head in shame.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

EDUCATION, ARTS AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Membership



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11:35 am) by leave, without notice: I move—

That the member for Springwood be appointed to replace the former member for Hinchinbrook on the Education, Arts and Communities Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3)

Introduction



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.36 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2024, the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Act 2019, the Health Legislation Amendment Act 2025, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Hospital Foundations Act 2018, the Pharmacy Business Ownership

Act 2024, the Private Health Facilities Act 1999, the Public Health Act 2005 and the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2025 [\[1553\]](#).

Tabled paper: Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2025, explanatory notes [\[1554\]](#).

Tabled paper: Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1555\]](#).

Today I introduce the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2025, an omnibus bill that amends eight acts across the health portfolio. The bill includes important amendments to improve patient safety, strengthen governance and accountability, improve regulatory clarity and ensure our legislation keeps pace with the evolving needs of our communities. As with any omnibus legislation, the proposals in this bill respond to a range of challenges and opportunities across our regulatory and policy frameworks. They reflect the diversity and complexity of our health system, encompassing reforms that clarify and modernise legislation, strengthen governance and accountability, and improve safety and quality of care. Taken together, these reforms contribute to advancing the Crisafulli government's commitment to modernising health laws, improving patient safety and strengthening public confidence in the health system. I will go through the detail of these amendments. Firstly I will deal with the Assisted Reproductive Technology Act amendments.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2024 commenced in part in September 2024 and is being implemented by Queensland Health. The act, which was developed and passed by the former government, established a state-based regulatory framework for providers of assisted reproductive technology, ART. The act and the regulatory framework it introduced were a direct response to serious and systemic failures of self-regulation in the ART sector. Regrettably, further failures have since come to light, including embryo mix-ups, that have deeply impacted members of our community. These incidents highlight the lifelong consequences such failures can have on patients and the donor-conceived people who are born through these services. They also underline the consequences of the act having been rushed through parliament by the former government without adequate consultation or time to draft such a complex and consequential piece of legislation.

There is no doubt that the original legislation was rushed. Developing a new regulatory framework for a previously self-regulated industry is complex. Parliamentary Counsel guidelines recommend that for legislation of this size and complexity 12 months should have been allocated for drafting. Instead, those opposite drafted the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill in just 10 weeks—10 weeks for something that the Office of Parliamentary Counsel say should take 12 months. In this timeframe a mere two weeks of consultation was undertaken—only two weeks of consultation on such a complex and far-reaching bill. No draft bill was provided to stakeholders for review. This limited the ability of industry, patients and families to meaningfully engage and provide feedback.

I would like to thank those same stakeholders, including donor-conceived people, advocacy groups and providers, for continuing to engage with Queensland Health throughout the process of implementing and now amending the act. Their insights have helped shape the bill that we have before us today and ensure the act will operate as intended. This is the calm and methodical approach that we bring to government. I also thank stakeholders for the positive feedback on this bill's consultation process and look forward to further discussions during the upcoming consultation process for the Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation which will be made to support the operation of the act. Unlike those opposite, we have consulted on this bill—we have consulted on its implementation and we will consult on the regulation.

The bill makes targeted fixes to the act to ensure it operates effectively. Sadly, Labor's rushed laws have caused unnecessary hardship for too many Queensland patients and families who suffered interrupted procedures and significant stress and anxiety. The bill establishes flexibility in the contact information that must be collected by providers before a person's eggs or sperm can be obtained or used in a procedure. This addresses stakeholder concerns that a single missing piece of information, like an email address, could prevent a patient from using their chosen donor even if all other information has been collected. How many times do people change their email address? That could prevent someone from being able to access their chosen donor's sperm or egg.

Queensland Health will set clear expectations about minimum information requirements and monitor compliance by ART providers to ensure adequate information is collected. More broadly, the bill also provides much needed discretion for the director-general of Queensland Health to approve the use of genetic material on a case-by-case basis. This will avoid cases where the strict application of

certain parts of the act would cause unnecessary and undue hardship for individuals or families, which again is something that Queensland families have already sadly experienced under Labor's rushed laws.

The ART Act already provides director-general discretion in relation to the time limit on using donor material and the destruction of records. Implementation activities and stakeholder engagement that we undertook identified that case-by-case discretion is also required in relation to the information collection requirements and what is described as the 10-family limit. Where these requirements would prevent a patient from using their chosen donor—for example, because a piece of information is unable to be collected or because the 10-family limit has been reached—case-by-case discretion will ensure that the welfare and interests of patients, families and donor-conceived people can be appropriately balanced. This will allow flexibility to be applied where needed while ensuring proper oversight is maintained. The bill also strengthens the inspector's powers to enable information to be obtained about a provider's compliance with the act. This will allow inspectors to investigate, monitor and enforce compliance with the act as the community rightly expects.

The bill futureproofs the act by removing references to the Reproductive Technology Accreditation Committee, or RTAC. RTAC is the self-regulatory body and it provides that accreditation is undertaken by a body to be prescribed by regulation. This reflects the recent decision taken by all Australian health ministers to replace RTAC with independent accreditation provided by the independent Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care from 2027. This was a decision that health ministers took in September.

Other amendments to the ART Act include clarifying the interaction and intent of provisions, refining transitional provisions, updating terminology and correcting a cross-referencing error. The bill will ensure that the ART Act operates as it ought and promotes equitable outcomes once the regulatory framework commences in full. This will assure patients, families and donor-conceived people that their rights and interests are being considered and protected and that ART services in Queensland are being monitored effectively.

Turning to the Transplantation and Anatomy Act amendments, this bill also amends the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979 to establish a consent framework to better support organ donation in certain circumstances. Organ and tissue donation is a profoundly generous act that saves and improves lives. Australia-wide there are currently about 1,800 people on the transplant waitlist. Another 14,000 people are on kidney dialysis, many of whom could have their lives improved by a transplant. I am sure there are many of us in this place who know people in those circumstances. Very few people—about two per cent of those who die in hospital—can be an organ donor. Very specific criteria must be met. A person must die in intensive care or at an emergency department and their organs need to be functioning well for donation to be a possibility. Last year 96 Queensland families agreed to donate their loved one's organs. I say to them, 'Thank you.' Thanks to them, 273 people received life-saving transplants. For 96 people who passed away, 273 people benefited as a result of that generosity. These figures highlight how vital it is to maximise every life-saving opportunity for donation.

Some may be aware that the Australian Law Reform Commission is currently undertaking a review into human tissue laws across Australia, with a report due in August 2026. This is an important inquiry, but the Crisafulli LNP government is acting now to strengthen one specific aspect of Queensland's legislation to support organ donation and give as many Queenslanders as possible a second chance at life. Currently, the majority of organ donations occur following what is known as brain death. This is when a person has been declared by a doctor to have no brain function. There is already a clear legislative framework in place for a family member to consent to donating their loved one's organs following their death.

In recent years more people have been able to donate their organs after what is known as circulatory death. This happens when a person's heart stops beating and they stop breathing. When circulatory death occurs in hospital, it is often in the intensive care unit and usually involves someone who has suffered a serious injury or illness and, sadly, has no prospect of recovery. When a person's heart stops beating, organs quickly deteriorate and become less suitable for donation. Clinicians may need to carry out certain simple procedures, also called interventions, to help keep the organs healthy and provide the best chance of making organ donation possible. This needs to happen while the person is still on life support. We need to preserve in order to protect in order to be able to facilitate a donation.

Currently, the law does not provide a clear process for consent to these procedures because that person has not yet been declared deceased. They are still on life support. This lack of clarity for families and clinicians can make it harder for organ donation to go ahead despite the person's family being

supportive. This bill addresses that uncertainty. It allows a person's next of kin to give consent for these procedures to occur. This consent can only be given after a lawful decision has been made to withdraw life-sustaining measures. The decision to withdraw life support must come first and it must be completely separate from any discussion about organ donation or the supporting interventions. Once consent has been given by the family the bill provides that a designated officer, who is an independent officer of the hospital and not part of the treating medical team for that person, must also authorise the carrying out of the procedures. These steps are crucial to ensuring that all decisions are made lawfully, sensitively and ethically, separating the timing and also the decision-making and the authorisation process.

To reflect stakeholder feedback and ensure the legislation is practical, the bill provides that blood tests do not need extra authorisation from the designated officer following consent from the next of kin. Blood tests are often the first and most urgent step in checking if someone can be a donor and it is critical that they can be done without administrative delay. These important changes provide a clear legal pathway for consent to these interventions, giving everyone confidence that decisions are made lawfully and transparently. The bill will enable more people to become donors where their family supports it, giving hope to those Queenslanders waiting for a transplant.

I turn to the amendments to the Private Health Facilities Act. This bill makes two amendments to the Private Health Facilities Act 1999 to strengthen patient safety and enhance information sharing across the Queensland government. The Private Health Facilities Act provides the legal framework to protect the health and wellbeing of patients at private hospitals and day hospitals across Queensland. A former member of this place, the former member for Stafford, is the president of the Day Hospitals Association of Queensland. Through the act we uphold rigorous standards in areas such as infection control, staffing and governance to ensure the quality and accountability of private health facilities, which is important as I am sure everyone recognises. The act requires all private health facilities to comply with accreditation standards prescribed by regulation. The current regulation requires private health facilities to comply with the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards.

The bill closes a gap in the act that does not clearly allow us to apply targeted accreditation requirements to specific facilities. The amendment will allow us to make a regulation to require private health facilities that perform cosmetic surgeries to comply with new National Safety and Quality Cosmetic Surgery Standards developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. This will ensure those facilities meet the highest safety standards, tailored to the unique risks of cosmetic surgery—something I cannot speak to. The cosmetic surgery standards represent a critical turning point to address patient safety concerns in the cosmetic surgery sector. Embedding this standard is a necessary step to ensure that private health facilities that perform cosmetic surgery provide safe, high-quality care.

Separate from these reforms, the bill also amends the Private Health Facilities Act to improve information sharing across the Queensland government. The Private Health Facilities Act protects confidential information but has different rules about how information can be shared depending on who the information is shared with. The second amendment to the Private Health Facilities Act will allow the sharing of confidential information with other Queensland entities under a prescribed agreement. This is the same approach that exists when sharing information with the Commonwealth and other states. It is also consistent with how information is shared under the Hospital and Health Boards Act and the Public Health Act.

The chief executive must still decide that sharing information under the prescribed agreements is in the public interest. This amendment will allow streamlined sharing of critical health information with agencies such as Maritime Safety Queensland, which relies on such information to support strategic intelligence on water transport injuries to improve public safety on Queensland's waterways. While we can already share information with Queensland government entities, the current process is slow and cumbersome. This amendment streamlines the process and removes unnecessary red tape.

The bill introduces amendments to four health acts that govern bodies that provide vital functions within our health system. The amendments will broaden the grounds on which the Governor in Council may remove members of hospital and health boards, the CEO and board members of Health and Wellbeing Queensland, the CEO and board members of the Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council, and members of hospital foundation boards. Upholding a standard of excellence for the performance, behaviour, integrity and effectiveness of these bodies is integral to upholding the high standards of our public health system. These amendments are necessary to ensure office holders can be removed if, for any reason, they are no longer meeting the expectations of their office or no longer have the confidence of the government and the Queensland community.

Finally, the bill makes a minor update to the Public Health Act 2005 as a result of two Commonwealth bills that were introduced in September proposing to transfer responsibility for the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry to the proposed Australian Centre for Disease Control. We have previously made amendments in relation to the respiratory disease registry, so this is yet another amendment following the transfer of responsibility for the maintenance of that register from the state to the Commonwealth. Because it is changing locations and is moving to the Australian Centre for Disease Control, we have to make this amendment. The amendment ensures that Queensland medical practitioners will continue to notify occupational respiratory diseases such as silicosis to the correct Commonwealth officer, regardless of whether the federal legislation is passed. This is a small but important change to ensure continuity in occupational respiratory disease surveillance, which strengthens our ability to detect and respond to emerging public health risks in workplaces across Queensland.

This bill is about improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, enhancing the governance of our health system, ensuring our health legislation works effectively and correcting mistakes that all too sadly were a result of the rushed passage of legislation by the former Labor government. The people of Queensland want a health system that supports their diverse needs and interests. This bill makes amendments aimed at doing just that. These amendments ensure that the assisted reproductive technology framework operates effectively and they maximise opportunities for life-saving organ donations. The bill provides for the safe delivery of cosmetic surgeries and supports good governance of our health oversight bodies. I commend the bill to the House. I thank all stakeholders who contributed to its development.

First Reading

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.55 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee.

DEFAMATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (11.56 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code and the Defamation Act 2005 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Defamation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 [[1556](#)].

Tabled paper: Defamation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [[1557](#)].

Tabled paper: Defamation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1558](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Defamation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The amendments to the Defamation Act 2005 contained in the bill meet Queensland's commitment to implement amendments to the Model Defamation Provisions and ensure continued uniformity with other Australian jurisdictions to the greatest extent possible. Uniform defamation laws in Australia assist potential parties in knowing their rights and limitations under the law and restrict the scope for forum shopping between states and territories due to differing legal frameworks.

The journey to establishing uniform defamation laws throughout Australia can be traced back to the early 2000s, when then governments agreed to work collaboratively to bring consistency in defamation matters in each jurisdiction. To facilitate the uniformity of laws, all states and territories became parties to the Model Defamation Provisions Intergovernmental Agreement, which established

the defamation working group. In November 2004 the former Standing Council of Attorneys-General, which I will refer to as SCAG, endorsed the Model Defamation Provisions and thereafter each state and territory enacted legislation to implement them. In Queensland this was done through the Defamation Act 2005, which commenced on 1 January 2006.

In June 2018, SCAG agreed to reconvene the defamation working party to consider whether the policy objectives of the Model Defamation Provisions remained valid and whether the provisions remained appropriate to achieve the objectives. This review was carried out in 2019 and 2020, following which the defamation working party recommended a further review to focus on the liability of digital platforms for defamatory content published online as well as any other new and emerging issues affecting defamation law. In July 2020, SCAG agreed to conduct a stage 2 review of the Model Defamation Provisions comprising two parts: part A considered the responsibility and liability of digital platforms for defamatory content published online; and part B considered defamation law's impact on the reporting of alleged unlawful conduct to entities including police and statutory investigative bodies as well as anti-discrimination and human rights commissions.

It is acknowledged that during the consultation process stakeholders expressed differing views about whether the Model Defamation Provisions and the proposed amendments to them achieve the right balance between the freedom of expression and the protection of reputation against harm. The part A and part B amendments reflect the majority position of SCAG, which takes into consideration all submissions received and aims to reflect a fairer balance between these conflicting rights.

Uniformity throughout Australia has almost been achieved with New South Wales, Victoria, the ACT, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and, in some part, South Australia already having enacted legislation to implement the part A and part B amendments. The Crisafulli government now brings Queensland into line with these other jurisdictions. The former Labor government decided not to do anything about it. Some of the more significant amendments in the bill include: the introduction of two conditional statutory exemptions from defamation liability; the introduction of a new defence for digital intermediaries for defamatory content posted by a third party; and the extension of the defence of absolute privilege to a matter reported to police.

I will turn firstly to the part A amendments dealing with digital intermediaries. As the Model Defamation Provisions were originally developed with traditional media publication in mind and without foresight to the continued growth of the internet, social media and the emergence of new technologies, there was a need to consider how to best amend the Model Defamation Provisions to reflect the significant shift in the way that information is published and consumed.

At common law the definition of 'publisher' is very broad. Anyone who takes part in publication in any degree can be regarded as a publisher. The responsibility of the individual or organisation that authors or creates the defamatory content is not in question and these amendments do not change their liability in defamation for content they create and post online. However, the bill addresses the question of liability in defamation law for intermediaries who participate in the publication of this third-party content online.

In the digital age, anyone with an internet connection has the ability to publish content to the world at large, facilitated by digital intermediaries who play various roles in the publication process. The bill defines 'digital intermediary' as a person or organisation which provides or administers the online service by means of which the matter is published. For example, if a person administers a Facebook page for residents of their local suburb or town to post information and comments that may be of interest to locals, both the person who administers the Facebook page as well as Facebook will be digital intermediaries in relation to any matter published on the Facebook page. However, the person who makes a post on the page or comments on a post is the author and publisher. The amendments in the bill do not interfere with the common-law test for publication but instead provide exemptions or defences which preclude or limit liability of digital intermediaries where there is a public policy reason for doing so.

The key reform of part A is the introduction of a new defence for digital intermediaries that is designed to clarify the law and provide greater certainty for digital intermediaries, particularly forum administrators, following the High Court decision in the case of *Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd and Others v Voller*. In the *Voller* decision, a majority of the High Court held that several media companies were publishers of comments posted on their public Facebook pages by third-party users in response to news stories they had posted. I would like to thank the many news publications that have raised this issue with me, in particular the editor of the *Courier-Mail*.

Under the new defence, digital intermediaries will not be liable for defamatory content where they can prove that, at the time of publication, they had an accessible complaints mechanism for the plaintiff to use. Most digital intermediaries will already have an accessible complaints mechanism in place—for example, a direct message feature or an email address where complaints can be sent. Additionally, if the digital intermediary received a written complaint about a potentially defamatory matter through the complaints mechanism, it must have taken reasonable steps, if available, to remove or otherwise prevent access to the matter within seven days. Importantly, where the digital intermediary decides to retain the content—for example, on the basis that it does not consider the material to be defamatory—the intermediary can instead defend the publication as a potential publisher in any resulting defamation proceedings.

To be valid, the complaint is required to contain sufficient information to enable a reasonable person to be made aware of the plaintiff's name, the matter and where it can be located, and that the plaintiff considers the matter to be defamatory. The defence can be defeated if the plaintiff proves the defendant was motivated by malice in establishing or providing the online service by which the digital matter was published. An example of this might be where a person creates a social media page dedicated to hosting hateful comments about an individual and encouraging members of the group to post hateful comments. This defence is intended to strike a balance between a digital intermediary's responsibility as a publisher and provide an aggrieved person with a clear and straightforward process to deal with material they consider defamatory.

The defence will mean that digital intermediaries do not need to review or monitor every single comment posted on their online service, which can often number in the thousands of posts for large organisations but, instead, the intermediary need only monitor and respond to complaints they receive. Similarly, an aggrieved person will have a clear and certain method for reporting potential defamatory content and a timeframe for when they should expect to receive a response. Importantly, nothing in this bill compels a digital intermediary to remove content, as already noted, where the digital intermediary might decide to retain the content and instead defend the publication as a potential publisher in any resulting defamation proceedings. The amendments in the bill are in line with the amendments agreed to by the majority of states and territories at SCAG and have already been implemented by New South Wales, Victoria, the ACT, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

In addition to the new defence, the bill inserts two conditional statutory exemptions from defamation liability applicable to narrow classes of digital intermediaries. During the development of defamation law, certain traditional intermediaries such as telephone lines and postal services were considered so passive in the publication process that they are not considered publishers but rather mere conduits. The stage 2 review concluded that there were equally passive digital intermediary functions that should have statutory protection from defamation liability for third-party content.

The first conditional exemption applies to caching services that store content temporarily to make onward transmission more efficient; conduit services such as internet service providers and email service providers, whose principal function is to enable users to connect with the internet, send data or receive data; and storage services such as cloud service providers, whose principal function is to enable users to store content remotely. Whilst the stage 2 review observed that these digital intermediaries are generally not the subject of defamation claims and are unlikely to be considered publishers, the introduction of a specific exemption will provide clarity and certainty. The exemption is conditional because it will not apply if the intermediary plays an active role in relation to the digital matter such as by editing or promoting the content.

The second conditional exemption applies to search engine providers in relation to organic search results. This is where the search engine uses an automated process to provide users with access to third-party content. The policy rationale for the exemption is that the search results are prompted not by the search engine but by the user typing in a search query, and the results are generated by an automated process. The exemption only applies to the publication of search results or digital matter to which the search results provide a hyperlink. However, the exemption will not apply to autocomplete suggestions of search terms or to sponsored search results such as paid advertisements on Google that are triggered by keywords in search terms and appear with the 'sponsored' or 'ad' tag. Both exemptions apply irrespective of whether the digital intermediary knew or ought reasonably to have known the digital matter was defamatory. Relevantly, the bill also provides that a judicial officer is to determine the applicability of an exemption as soon as possible before a trial starts, unless the officer is satisfied there are good reasons to postpone the determination.

I will now outline the changes to offers to make amends in the bill. The Model Defamation Provisions include processes to encourage the resolution of disputes about potentially defamatory matter without litigation. An aggrieved person who believes defamatory matter has been published about them may give the publisher a concerns notice to enable the publisher to make an offer to make amends. If an offer to make amends is accepted by the aggrieved person and its terms are carried out, they cannot continue or enforce an action against the publisher and the publisher has a defence in defamation proceedings for the matter in question.

The act currently prescribes what must be included in an offer to make amends, including a requirement for an offer to publish a reasonable correction or clarification about the matter. This requirement can be difficult to comply with in relation to digital matter, as there may be circumstances where it would not be possible for the publisher to make a correction or clarification without republishing the defamatory matter—for example, where a traditional broadcast media organisation would restate the incorrect publication and then state a correction, resulting in the defamatory matter being republished. Therefore, the amendments in the bill will allow an offer to make amends for digital matter to instead include an offer to take access prevention steps such as blocking, disabling or otherwise preventing access to the matter. For example, an online publisher could offer to delete the defamatory post from their website or social media page. This will give greater flexibility to publishers in dealing with complaints about digital matter.

The bill also makes changes to preliminary disclosure orders. Identifying people who post or publish defamatory digital matter can create challenges for a plaintiff seeking to bring defamation proceedings. Courts currently have a power to make orders for preliminary disclosure against digital intermediaries to help identify a poster so a plaintiff can serve a concerns notice or an originating process. The bill will introduce a requirement that when making orders for preliminary disclosure in defamation proceedings courts must consider the objects of the Model Defamation Provisions as well as privacy, safety or other public interest matters. This will help protect individuals who would have their safety or privacy unnecessarily put at risk if a preliminary disclosure order is made. For example, the provision would require the court to take into account the potential for domestic violence against a poster of digital matter whose address is being sought by an alleged perpetrator.

The bill also introduces a new court power. It can be the case that once a plaintiff is successful in a defamation proceeding and orders are made for the defendant to remove or prevent access to the defamatory matter the defendant does not comply. The bill therefore introduces a new power for courts to order a digital intermediary who is not party to a proceeding to remove or disable access to the online defamatory matter. This power will only apply where the plaintiff has obtained judgement for defamation against the defendant or where the court has granted an injunction or other order preventing the defendant from publishing the matter pending determination of the defamation proceeding.

The Defamation Act currently allows documents to be given or served to a person by sending it to an email address specified by the person for giving or serving documents on them. The bill includes amendments to instead allow a document or notice to be given to a person or body corporate by any means of electronic communication to an address or location indicated by the recipient. For example, a document could be given by email or by a direct message through an online service.

Overall, the part A reforms agreed to by SCAG and contained in the bill are designed to clarify the law of defamation. These reforms will create more certainty for both plaintiffs and digital intermediary defendants in the age of digital communication whilst striking the right balance between protecting reputations and not unreasonably limiting freedom of expression.

The bill will also amend the existing criminal defamation offence in section 365 of the Criminal Code to ensure that the new defence for digital intermediaries and the new statutory exemptions from liability also operate as a lawful excuse in criminal defamation proceedings. This will ensure a consistent approach between civil and criminal provisions and remove any uncertainty about liability for criminal defamation for digital intermediaries.

I will now turn to the part B amendments dealing with absolute privilege. The genesis of the part B review was a concern that the potential threat of defamation proceedings may deter victim-survivors from coming forward to police or other complaints-handling bodies about conduct such as sexual harassment and sexual assault. While reports to police and other complaints-handling bodies may be protected by the existing defence of qualified privilege, the onus rests on the victim-survivor to establish the qualified privilege defence. That is, a victim-survivor will have to prove that they had an interest in communicating, or a legal, social or moral duty to communicate, the matter to police, and police have a corresponding or reciprocal interest or duty in receiving the report.

The defamation working party heard from stakeholders that the defence of qualified privilege does not provide a sufficient safeguard against the deterrent of defamation proceedings. This is because there is some uncertainty about the kinds of publications that will attract the defence, as the defence requires both the publisher to have an interest in communicating the information, or a legal, social or moral duty to communicate the information, and the recipient to have a corresponding interest or duty. In contrast, the defence of absolute privilege is a complete immunity and defence to a defamation suit which attaches to the circumstances in which a publication is made. The mere availability of an absolute privilege defence discourages the commencement of defamation proceedings or, when commenced, generally results in their summary dismissal. The Model Defamation Provisions already provide absolute privilege in a number of specific circumstances—for example, to matter published in the course of proceedings of a parliamentary body, Australian court or tribunal. The bill contains an amendment which extends absolute privilege to matter published to police, thereby removing a potential barrier for victim-survivors to make a complaint to police. This approach is consistent with the common law developed in the United Kingdom.

A component of the part B reforms agreed to by SCAG was for jurisdictions to determine whether to extend absolute privilege to matter published to other complaints-handling bodies, having reference to guiding principles agreed to by SCAG. Queensland has already extended the defence of absolute privilege to certain statutory bodies through provisions within their enabling legislation that are appropriately tailored to the body's specific circumstances. For example, a person who honestly and on reasonable grounds gives information to the Health Ombudsman for the purpose of a health service complaint has a defence of absolute privilege in any defamation proceeding for giving the information. Similarly, a person who makes a public interest disclosure to a public sector entity or member of the Legislative Assembly has a defence of absolute privilege in any defamation proceeding for making the disclosure. Therefore, the bill does not propose to prescribe any additional Queensland complaints-handling bodies to have the benefit of the defence. The part B amendments in the bill support and encourage those harmed by unlawful conduct to report the offending to police and thereby support the public interest in bringing offenders to account.

In conclusion, the bill will commence seven days after it receives royal assent. This will ensure the changes commence as soon as possible but also give certainty to the public and our courts as to when the new provisions will take effect. These amendments are the product of a significant review process by the Defamation Working Party, and I note that the application of defamation law to our digital spaces will continue to be kept under review. SCAG agreed there should be a review of these amendments no later than three years after they have commenced in all implementing states and territories, and the Queensland government will continue to be involved in the review process.

This is an important bill. It is a shame that the former Labor government did not get to work on it when they had the time to do so. It implements the nationally agreed model defamation amendments and strikes the right balance between protecting reputations and freedom of expression in the context of modern digital challenges whilst also removing barriers to reporting criminal or unlawful conduct to police and creating a safer Queensland. The amendments in the bill are consistent with changes already enacted by New South Wales, Victoria, the ACT, Tasmania and the Northern Territory to help achieve uniformity and consistency for defamation laws across this great country. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (12.21 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.

QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH BILL

Resumed from 22 May (see p. 1435).

Second Reading



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.22 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I would like to address the second reading of the QIMR Bill 2025. Firstly, I welcome to the chamber representatives of QIMR who are here today. They are part of the legal team at QIMR, and attending parliament to listen to this second reading speech is uniquely suited to them. Welcome. No doubt I will get a critique of my delivery and of the actions taken from QIMR in due course. It is good to have them here in the chamber as this very important piece of legislation is debated by members on both sides.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Primary Industries and Resources Committee in conducting its inquiry into the QIMR Bill 2025 and thank the committee for its report. I note that this committee does not normally carry out investigations into health legislation, but it was appropriate in these circumstances. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I appreciate the committee's support for the bill.

As the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, I am committed to ensuring Queensland's statutory health bodies operate with integrity, efficiency and agility. Our health system is constantly evolving. Every day new discoveries are being made, new technologies are emerging and new pressures are being placed on our hospitals, clinicians and researchers. If our statutory bodies are to continue meeting these challenges they must have the right legislative tools and governance frameworks to support their work. I often say we cannot keep doing things the way they have been done in the past. We need to be agile. We need to be able to move quickly. We need to give our institutions and our bodies the capacity to do so.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025 is a prime example of this government's commitment to reforming outdated legislation so our statutory bodies remain modern, transparent and responsive. This bill replaces the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945. That act has served QIMR well for 80 years, but it is no longer adequate for today's needs. The new framework reflects contemporary standards for public administration, governance and integrity. In fact, the need for this bill was first raised with me by Professor Arun Sharma upon my coming to office, and we have had a number of very good discussions in relation to the 80-year anniversary of QIMR and this bill.

QIMR is one of Queensland's great institutions. It is a homegrown, world-class research facility that has improved health outcomes here and across the globe. From pioneering cancer and infectious disease discoveries to breakthroughs in mental health and population health, QIMR continues to be at the forefront of medical science.

One of QIMR's latest research projects has unveiled the next generation of its world-leading melanoma risk prediction calculator to help all Australians take action against that deadly cancer. This cutting-edge online tool now includes 16 personal risk factors such as skin type and sunspot history. This is an example of practical prevention, allowing for earlier intervention, smarter targeting of skin checks and fewer lives disrupted by late diagnosis. Prevention is incredibly important, and this research will ensure Queenslanders have access to early intervention. QIMR is turning knowledge into protection to give everyone a fair shot at living a healthy life without melanoma.

QIMR has also launched a new study called Q-Inform to help researchers find the best and most effective way to provide people with information about their individual risk of developing melanoma. By using existing genetic and survey information from the QSkin Sun and Health Study database, researchers will examine whether informing participants of their individual risk for developing melanoma is associated with stronger adherence to recommended skin cancer screening guidelines. Q-Inform will put knowledge in the hands of all Queenslanders, while giving researchers the tools they need to turn genetic insight into real-world protection.

That is not all. Recently, QIMR researchers also discovered how brain stem cells transition between active and resting states. This insight could transform brain health research and cancer therapies. They have optimised the Masterswitch antibody, bringing a promising new targeted therapy for advanced bowel cancer closer to human trials. In a groundbreaking collaboration with the Murdoch

Children's Research Institute and the Victorian Royal Children's Hospital, QIMR scientists have successfully grown three-dimensional human heart tissue in the lab, creating a completely new way to test medicines for genetic heart conditions. How amazing.

These are not just scientific achievements; they represent hope for Queenslanders and for families around the world affected by illness and disease. They are a powerful reminder of what is possible when we invest in medical research.

I will summarise the aspects of the bill that I think are of most importance. I turn to commercialised incentive payments. This bill ensures QIMR has the legal and governance foundations it needs to continue the vital work I have described. At the heart of QIMR's success is collaboration. Research breakthroughs are almost never the work of one person; they are the product of teams of researchers, clinicians, statisticians, PhD students and many others working across disciplines and projects, yet under the current act only those classified as 'discoverers' or 'inventors' are eligible for commercialisation bonuses. This narrow definition excludes the very many contributors who play an essential role in bringing some of these discoveries to life.

The bill addresses this by replacing the word 'bonuses' with 'commercialised incentive payments' and clarifying eligibility to include all contributors to commercialised research. This ensures all those individuals who meaningfully contribute, whether they are staff, students or collaborators, have strong incentives to innovate and can share in the rewards of successful commercialisation.

The bill also updates the approval process for these payments to create a more practical and proportionate system. Governor in Council approval will only be required for very large payments—where payments for a single piece of intellectual property exceed \$10 million in a financial year or where an individual contributor would receive more than \$5 million for a single project in a financial year. These thresholds are consistent with existing government policy and provide strong oversight of significant payments.

The approach strikes the right balance. It preserves transparency and accountability for large payments while giving the council the flexibility to recognise excellence, to reward innovation and to retain the brightest minds. These reforms ensure Queensland remains and perhaps can even be a better destination for world-class research.

I turn to council membership and integrity. This bill modernises QIMR's governance arrangements to meet the expectations of a modern health system and the Queensland public. Obviously, a bill designed in 1944 for 1945 is not reflective of the standards we expect today.

Strong governance is not just a legal requirement; it is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring QIMR can focus on what it does best: world-class medical research. That is why the bill puts in place clear and timely reporting requirements. It will require QIMR's council to notify the minister of any matter that could significantly affect the institute's finances, operations or management. This means issues such as major litigation or serious financial risks can be identified early and addressed transparently rather than left to escalate.

The bill also makes appointments to the council more efficient. Responsibility for appointments will move from the Governor in Council to the minister, allowing vacancies to be filled quickly so the council can stay focused on its critical work. Importantly, this reform preserves the rigour and transparency expected of public appointments. I note this change is supported by QIMR. I want to read from their submission dated 2 June to the committee. They state—

QIMR Berghofer supports the Bill's proposal to shift the responsibility for appointing and removing Council members from the Governor in Council to the Minister ... This reform brings several important benefits for the Institute's governance and operational effectiveness:

- (a) **Timely Appointments:** Ministerial appointments allow for a more streamlined and efficient process, reducing the administrative delays often associated with Governor in Council procedures. This ensures that vacancies can be filled promptly, minimising disruption to Council operations and decision-making.
- (b) **Agility in Governance:** The ability for the Minister to appoint and, where necessary, remove Council members enables the Institute to respond rapidly to changing circumstances, including the need for specific expertise or to address emerging governance issues.
- (c) **Balanced Approach:** While the Minister's appointment power increases responsiveness, the Bill retains appropriate checks and balances, including clear criteria for appointment, removal, and disqualification. This ensures that governance standards are upheld without compromising the Institute's operational independence or research integrity.

These changes are clearly supported by QIMR. The size of the council will also be refined by capping membership at nine. This reflects the current size and structure, keeps meetings manageable and ensures the council continues to bring together diversity of expertise and perspectives.

Integrity is at the heart of public confidence in QIMR's work. The bill empowers the minister to request criminal history reports before council appointments and requires existing members to disclose if they are charged with or convicted of an indictable offence. It also introduces new disqualification provisions and gives the minister clear powers to remove council members who engage in misconduct or act in a way that undermines the standards expected of publicly funded institutions.

The bill also addresses conflict-of-interest management. It makes clear that any council member with a material personal interest in a matter must step aside from deliberations and decisions. This is a simple but vital safeguard to ensure the public can have confidence that QIMR's decisions are made in the best interests of the institute and the people of Queensland.

The director of QIMR plays a pivotal role in guiding the institute's research strategy, building partnerships and maintaining operational excellence. Under the current act, the director must be appointed by the Governor in Council. This process can be lengthy and limits QIMR's ability to recruit swiftly in a highly competitive environment for research leaders. The bill streamlines the process by allowing the council to appoint the director subject to ministerial approval. This strikes the right balance between council autonomy and appropriate government oversight.

To further strengthen accountability, the bill requires the director to notify the council if they are charged with an indictable offence or become insolvent. Failure to do so without reasonable excuse will be an offence attracting a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units. The bill also allows the council to appoint an acting director—currently it cannot—for up to six months when required, ensuring leadership continuity during periods of absence or transition. Finally, the bill enables the council to delegate functions to the director and allows the director to subdelegate to appropriately qualified staff. This ensures decision-making happens efficiently, at the right level and by those with the relevant expertise.

I turn now to gifts and donations. The bill clarifies QIMR's ability to receive gifts and donations. QIMR's research is supported not just by government funding and grants, which it is, but by the generosity of the community. In 2023-24, the institute raised more than \$17 million in donations, bequests and philanthropic support. These contributions are vital to advancing research and innovation.

The bill clarifies the council's authority to deal with gifts that may be impractical or inappropriate, ensuring they are managed transparently, in line with financial legislation and in the best interests of QIMR and its work. This is a small but important reform that gives QIMR greater flexibility to use community support effectively and responsibly.

QIMR celebrates its 80th anniversary in November. For eight decades it has been at the forefront of discovery, delivering real-world health benefits and putting Queensland on the map as a leader in medical research. It is one of our premier research organisations. Queenslanders should be proud of it. Queenslanders should be happy to support it. The LNP Crisafulli government is happy to support it.

I want to take this opportunity to thank QIMR—its researchers, support staff, the administrative team who are here today—and council members for their extraordinary contribution to science and health. The dedication, skill and passion of these individuals have made Queensland a leader in global medical research. Their work has given hope to patients, improved treatments and inspired future generations of scientists.

Over my time in this place I have had the benefit of having many tours of QIMR including, most recently, after being appointed health minister but prior to that in many roles. I have enjoyed the hospitality and the information provided by QIMR and I acknowledge the great work they have done. This bill is about giving QIMR the legislative support it needs to continue this vital work. It strengthens integrity, improves governance and ensures the institute remains agile and competitive in a rapidly changing world. This government is committed to backing Queensland researchers, empowering them to make the discoveries that will save lives and improve health outcomes for generations to come. I look forward to the debate on the bill and to its passage.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (12.37 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill. I welcome QIMR leaders in the gallery here today and thank them for their leadership and stewardship of one of the most important institutions here in Queensland. The Queensland Institute of Medical Research is one of our state's proudest institutions. For nearly 80 years its scientists, doctors, researchers, collaborators and inventors have been at the cutting edge of discovery—discoveries that have saved lives, improved public health, prolonged lives and reduced suffering in our community, not just here in Queensland but much more broadly than that as an important part of the medical and scientific community.

It is an institute that discovered the Ross River virus in 1963, pioneered immunotherapy, and broke new ground in melanoma and skin cancer prevention—something very pertinent to Queensland, where we have the highest skin cancer rates in the world. They identified the gene responsible for haemochromatosis and, more recently, they helped support our world-leading COVID-19 response here in Queensland—one of the best responses across the globe. Queenslanders owe the Queensland Institute of Medical Research an enormous debt of gratitude. Labor will always support their life-changing work.

I was privileged to meet with them late last year and be briefed on their work, and I thank them for that opportunity as the new shadow health minister at the time. Their work is fascinating and extraordinary, to say the least. One might even say that some of their work almost sounds like science fiction in terms of how sophisticated and targeted it is. They are developing techniques to deal with cancer. It is extraordinary work and this Labor opposition supports it wholeheartedly. That is why we support the bill's intent to modernise QIMR's legislative framework.

We welcome changes that make incentive payments fairer and more inclusive. We recognise that medical research today is collaborative and it takes lab assistants, statisticians, clinicians, researchers, IT experts, research managers and a range of other technical people who all work together and collaborate in terms of getting the outcomes they seek. Every one of them contributes to that discovery; every one of them deserves that recognition. This bill allows incentive payments to reflect that reality. That is fair and it is something that the Labor opposition supports.

While there is much to commend in this bill, there is also much to question. Buried within the reforms is a change that goes to the heart of integrity and transparency: the process of appointing members to the QIMR council. Under this bill the Governor in Council and its notification will no longer approve those appointments and is being removed. Instead the health minister will decide, and less openness and transparency will be the inevitable outcome. Let's be clear about what that means. This reduces transparency around who is appointed to the governing body of Queensland's leading medical research institute and it allows the government to delay or not even announce at all—if they choose to do so—a new appointment. This government already has a very poor record in terms of appointments to medical bodies. The Chief Health Officer appointment, which is now under CCC investigation, is well known. Numerous LNP mates have been appointed left, right and centre to government owned corporations—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Miller, I would ask you to refer to an aspect of the bill, the committee report or even the explanatory notes that links what you are talking about with the bill and its relevance.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker; I take your guidance there. I am referring to clause 11, which refers to the appointment process. What I am talking about is the appointment process and the record of this government as it relates to this bill. One needs to consider context, and the context of appointments is very important. It is an important part of this bill, and I am simply pointing out to the chamber the fact that we have seen quite a long list of appointments by this government of former LNP MPs to this place and former LNP donors to a range of positions, many without a merit-based process. That is just a fact and a matter of record. The most recent one, to EDQ—

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the member is straying from the bill before the House and should stay relevant to the bill before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice from the Clerk. Member for Miller, I think you have made your point. I invite you to return to the substance of the bill.

Mr BAILEY: I was referring to clause 11 specifically. The point I am making more broadly is that you have to look at the record of the government and how it might apply to this bill. It is certainly relevant. What we do not want to see is appointments that are kept secret. That is the reasonable expectation of any Labor opposition. Transparency and openness were key commitments made by Premier Crisafulli going into the election, yet here we have a bill that reduces openness and transparency in terms of an appointment process. That specifically relates to clause 11. Given the form of the government in terms of the appointment of people like Julian Simmonds, Jeff Seeney, Lachlan Millar, Michael Hart, Andrew Cripps, Peter Matic, Will Hodgman, Stuart Wood, Patrick Brady, Viv Grayson, Chris Lehmann, John Sosso—

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order goes to the matter of legislation before the House. That is the matter that should be being debated rather than the member trying to debate other issues before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller, I have given you guidance. I have asked you to move on. You have made your point. I think you are straying from the long title of the bill. I ask you to remain relevant.

Mr BAILEY: The opposition will be looking very carefully at future appointments to make sure they maintain the integrity of this very important institution, which has served Queensland for nearly 80 years. It is very important. Given the events of the last 12 months I will not say any more, but we have reason—on the basis of form—to have concerns about that. I think that is a reasonable position and it is pertinent to the bill. Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your guidance.

The functions of the QIMR council are critical. It manages the institute's finances, it oversees investments and it decides on the commercialisation of intellectual property. It accepts and uses incredibly well the gifts, donations and bequests from philanthropists and applies them to the public good. It directs the research agenda and it also holds the director of QIMR to account. These powers, which affect the allocation of tens and often hundreds of millions of dollars, are very important and can shape the direction of medical research in this state for decades. These powers must be exercised independently, transparently and in the public interest given the role of the institute in terms of saving lives, prolonging life and improving the quality of life for countless people in this state and much further afield.

In terms of the bill, let's be very clear: we do not believe there is any justification for this change to the appointment process whatsoever. I note the comments of the minister. I think the efficiency of the process needs to be prioritised by a minister who is on their game and being very effective. I do not think that is what we have seen from this current minister. We see a beleaguered and hapless minister going from scandal to scandal. It is something the minister's office needs to manage with the government to make sure it is an efficient process through the Governor in Council. That is eminently achievable and something that the minister should be prioritising rather than changing clause 11, which reduces transparency and openness in terms of that appointment to the bill specifically.

The opposition is very clear that we do not want to see more secrecy. We do not want to see things being sneaked through and not announced. We want to see a process where the public is guaranteed to know who is appointed in a timely manner and in a regimented way. We do not trust the government to keep to the spirit of the appointment process. Based on a whole range of issues over the last 12 months, that is why we have very grave doubts about clause 11 which I am happy not to go into given your ruling, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is a list that is longer than my right arm, and I think most people would accept that my right arm is longer than most.

Government members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite may interject all they like. They know this is a struggling minister who is not handling his portfolio well at all. We are seeing many problems there. The pattern has been established. We are concerned about what that pattern might mean in terms of QIMR. In terms of clause 11, we do not think this bill is one that is deserving of support. This is another broken promise. Transparency and openness were a key election commitment of Premier Crisafulli, yet we are not seeing that followed through in terms of the bills that are coming before this House or the way the government is being conducted. We are seeing secrecy and we are seeing things being hidden regularly.

Labor welcomes the provisions that increase transparency in other areas of the bill. We support the requirement for the council to notify the minister of matters that may affect its viability. We support clearer rules on conflicts of interest in terms of gifts and also reporting. Those aspects of the bill are sensible reforms and they deserve support, and the opposition will be supporting them. However, it does not disguise the fact that part of this bill does weaken that transparency and openness around the appointment process to the council. Once you weaken things at the top you weaken trust throughout, and that is what our concerns are.

Queenslanders who rely on medical breakthroughs deserve to know that the institute is run transparently and not politically. That is a key objective for the opposition. Labor says clearly that we support modernising the QIMR, we support fairer incentive payments and we support greater reporting obligations, but we do not support the removal of Governor in Council oversight of council appointments. This government has form—I have covered that fairly well—and we cannot allow that form to infect in any way the QIMR. It is too important for that, and that is why we take that position.

Our message is very simple: protect the integrity of QIMR, support the scientists and the researchers, and support openness and transparency and do not see a diminution of them. Queensland deserves a continuing, world-leading medical research body and it deserves a government that governs

with honesty and competence—and, judging by their first year in power, I do not see the evidence that that has been the case under Premier Crisafulli. When Premier Crisafulli says something, we know it means nothing. The opposition has a right to be suspicious and cautious. We will be defending, protecting and voting for transparency and openness and pointing out those measures which we believe are a concern with this bill.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (12.51 pm): I rise to support the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. This bill is not simply a legislative update; it is a recognition of 80 years of world-class medical research and it ensures that one of Queensland's most valued institutions has the governance it needs to continue saving lives for generations to come. The QIMR Act provides for the establishment of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research council. This council is a statutory body established under the act to control and manage QIMR.

In addressing appointments—I will not do it five times in a row—and the council makeup, currently all council appointments are made by Governor in Council. This may result in unnecessary delays and affect the council's ability to remain responsive and effective. In transferring this responsibility to the health minister we will see quicker appointments, ensuring integrity and transparency are maintained.

I was the chair of the committee that had the privilege of looking at this bill, and I learned that the history and legacy of the institute are amazing. The Queensland Institute of Medical Research—now known as QIMR Berghofer—was founded in 1945, born from the vision of then premier Frank Nicklin and the determination of Dr Charles Kerr. It was established in the wake of the Second World War, when infectious diseases like tuberculosis, malaria and polio posed enormous threats to Queensland communities. The institute's founding mission was clear: to carry out medical research that directly improved the health of Queenslanders.

Over the decades, QIMR has lived up to that mission. In the 1960s, its scientists identified the Ross River virus, which causes debilitating joint pain and fatigue. This was an enormous contribution to tropical medicine. In the 1970s and 1980s, the institute expanded its work on mosquito-borne diseases, malaria and virology, becoming one of the leading centres for tropical health research in the Asia-Pacific region. In the 1990s and 2000s, it emerged as a global leader in cancer research—especially in melanoma and leukaemia—contributing to breakthroughs in diagnosis and treatment.

More recently, QIMR Berghofer has been at the forefront of immunotherapy, genomics and mental health research, working on cutting-edge treatments for cancer, Alzheimer's and other complex conditions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, QIMR played a crucial role in modelling the spread of the virus and developing potential vaccines and treatments, showing once again how deeply it serves the community in times of crisis. In 1986 it found that regular sunscreen use reduces the risk of skin cancers, providing a scientific basis for clinical and public health advice around the world about skin cancer prevention.

From a small postwar laboratory to a globally recognised research powerhouse employing more than 1,000 scientists, students and support staff, the institute has contributed to not only the health of Queenslanders but also Queensland's reputation as a leader in medical science. However, while the science has advanced, the legislative framework has not. The Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945, under which the institute still technically operates, was drafted for another era. It does not reflect the modern governance standards, accountability measures or administrative flexibility required by an organisation that now manages multimillion dollar research programs, collaborates globally and commercialises life-saving discoveries.

The bill modernises this framework by strengthening governance, including clear obligations for council members and enhanced integrity checks; providing flexibility in leadership and delegation so the institute can operate more efficiently; encouraging commercialisation and innovation by creating fair incentive arrangements for researchers; requiring greater transparency and oversight, ensuring both the minister and the public can have confidence in the institute's management; and clarifying rules for the acceptance of gifts and bequests, which is an important safeguard given the institute's reliance on philanthropic support.

The issue of commercialisation was of particular interest to the committee during our hearings. We heard that in Australia the opportunity for research funding has become increasingly competitive. The submission from QIMR highlighted the demand on sources of grant funding, with the institute's success rate in obtaining major grants often falling below 15 per cent. This heightened competition means that even world-class research projects may struggle to secure sufficient funding through grants

alone. The committee heard about these constraints. The ability to commercialise research is more important than ever for the sustainability of institutes like QIMR Berghofer. The Queensland Institute of Medical Research has stood for nearly 80 years as a guardian of public health and a beacon of scientific discovery—from the days of combating polio and tuberculosis through to the battles against tropical diseases, cancer and now global pandemics.

It is important to talk about some of the fellowships as these allow researchers to pursue their long-term, high-impact research projects without the pressure of obtaining long-term and short-term grants. In 2024-25 the following researchers achieved fellowship recognition in the Investigator Grants scheme: Professor Rachel Neale, who was awarded \$3 million for two distinct research programs; Associate Professor Tracy O'Mara, who was awarded more than \$2 million to continue her groundwork research in endometrial cancer genetics; and Dr Daniel Rawle, who was awarded \$600,000. In addition to that, QIMR offers Higher Degree by Research programs. In 2024-25, there were 16 people who did a Doctor of Philosophy, 12 people who did a Master of Philosophy and 19 people who did their honours degree.

Effective legislation is essential to safeguard the operation and future success of the institute. This bill honours that history by ensuring the institute's governance is as strong and forward-looking as the science it produces. In doing so, it secures the future of an organisation that has served Queenslanders so well.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to thank the committee for its work. The committee was honoured to accept the role and responsibility of considering this bill. Our committee received some great submissions and we were very pleased to see that everyone was in support of QIMR's research projects. The detailed responses were very welcomed. The committee was able to understand their medical research and what the future of medicine in Queensland looks like. More importantly, we are pleased to update the legislation. In conclusion, happy 80th to the institute as we pass this legislation through the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bennett, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Health System



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Queenslanders deserve a health system that works where the ambulance turns up when you call, where your scans are read on time, where you get a follow-up when you are supposed to, where every patient is treated with care and dignity. However, that is not what is happening under this LNP government, not under the member for Clayfield. Right now we are watching the worst health performance in Queensland's history by the LNP's own measure.

The member for Clayfield is failing by the standard set for him by the Premier and the former health spokesperson. They said the previous peak was the worst ever and that the then health minister should be sacked. The LNP told Queenslanders that they would fix ramping and promised to bring it below 30 per cent. That was the health minister's big test, the yardstick for success. By that yardstick he is failing badly. Ramping is now the worst it has ever been, worse than before, worse than during COVID—worse than any time on record. By his own metric, by the LNP's own promise, the member for Clayfield is the worst health minister Queensland has ever had. Let's talk about the numbers.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Logan, that is extremely loud.

Mr MILES: Let's talk about the numbers. Nearly half of all patients who arrive by ambulance are waiting more than 30 minutes to be seen in an emergency department; 47.8 per cent of patients were ramped in July—almost half. That is not an outlier; that is the new normal under the LNP, the highest on record. Hospitals like Caboolture, Prince Charles, the PA and Rockhampton are all under pressure. Every single one of them is breaking under the weight. Queenslanders are stuck in ambulances instead of being treated. Paramedics cannot get back on the road. Families are left waiting and worrying. What does this minister do? He puts out a press release. He says it is 'challenging'. He suggests they are pulling every lever but Queenslanders do not want levers; they want leadership. However, that

leadership should not come at the expense of patient safety like we have seen with the new 2½ hour KPI imposed on ramped ambulances. The family of Christine White believe that this KPI contributed to her move from the care of paramedics to the waiting room where she was left unattended.

Our hardworking healthcare heroes are doing the best they can with what they are given, but when the minister cracks the whip on dangerous KPIs, what are they to do? The hospital records that the White family was told they would have to pay to access through right to information show that Christine did not want to be moved to the waiting room. She was in too much pain; she wanted to stay lying down but, due to ambulance and hospital pressures, it was necessary. Christine White later died in pain at home. Brooke, Christine's daughter, was here in the gallery today and later spoke powerfully about the impact her mother's death has had—a death that was likely avoidable. They are a family who now has more questions than comfort from a minister and Premier who, instead of reaching out to them in a time of need, insists on hiding their Facebook comments.

While ramping hits record highs, scandal after scandal keeps erupting. In Townsville a urology department failed its patients, failed to deliver test results, failed to follow up and failed to keep people safe. At least 11 patients missed vital results, some with cancer. Can honourable members imagine that: getting a scan and never getting the results, never knowing? Now there is an investigation, a full part 9 inquiry, into what went wrong, but that does not help those families now. It does not fix the heartbreak; it does not restore trust. Where was the health minister while all this was happening? On holidays!

Then came Caboolture: thousands of scans were left unread; tens of thousands of results were never checked, some going back years. One patient with terminal cancer had a scan showing the diagnosis, but no-one saw it; no-one told him. In September, some five weeks later, they came back to emergency and only then did anyone realise. By the time the scandal erupted the patient had sadly passed away. Today we learnt the minister knew about this case and said nothing. That is not just a bungle; it is a tragedy. Metro North called it a 'worst case scenario' and they were right. It is not just about technology or process; it is about people—real people, real lives—and, again, where was the minister? You guessed it: on holiday.

This government made big promises on health. They said they would fix ramping. They said they would add 2,600 new beds and hire thousands of new staff. The LNP said a lot, but the reality is that ramping is at its worst, hospitals are breaking, scandals are growing and not a lot is being delivered in a hurry.

Amidst all of this, the LNP has scrapped pill testing. It was a line of defence in detecting dangerous drugs in the community and protecting the health of Queenslanders. The result? Sadly, a second person died from a synthetic opioid just weeks later. People have no idea what they are taking until it is too late and there is no early intervention to detect it.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr MILES: Queenslanders were promised a Hospital Rescue Plan; instead they have a hospital crisis plan. Doctors are speaking out, nurses are exhausted, patients are angry and the minister was missing in action. When leadership matters most, the health minister disappears. When the Townsville scandal hit, he was gone. When the Caboolture disaster broke, he was gone. It is not a holiday; it is an abdication of duty. Queenslanders expect their health minister to show up, to take responsibility and to fix problems, not flee from them. Leadership is not about taking credit when things go well; it is about showing up when things go wrong. That is what Queenslanders deserve. That is what they are not getting.

Queenslanders deserve better than excuses, better than dangerous KPIs, better than reviews, better than the LNP's slick slogans and spin. They deserve hospitals that work, ambulances that arrive, scans that are read, ministers who turn up and who listen, who do not arrogantly think they know better than the health experts. The member for Clayfield is running the very health system the LNP spent years attacking. They are being judged by their own yardstick and the member for Clayfield is failing by a mile. Every week brings another crisis, another scandal and another press conference of excuses. He blames the system, he blames the past, he blames the staff—he blames everyone except himself.

Here is what needs to happen. First, finish the Townsville investigation quickly and release every finding—no spin, no secrecy. Second, review every hospital imaging process in Queensland—every single one—because if it happened at Caboolture it can happen anywhere. Third, put in place a proper plan to fix ramping, not a slogan—a real plan with year-on-year targets that mean something—and

resources to match. Fourth, the minister needs to show up and he needs to listen. He owes that to Queenslanders. This is not about Labor versus the LNP; it is about Queenslanders who need care. Every ambulance stuck on a ramp is a Queenslanders waiting for help. Every unread scan is a Queenslanders waiting for answers. Every missed result is a Queenslanders waiting for hope, and every one of them deserves better than this. Right now, Queensland has a health minister who hides from the headlines and holidays through the hard times, and enough is enough.

Leader of the Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.10 pm): I am a betting man. If I were to have a bet on who I trust to fix Labor's health crisis, would I bet on the member for Clayfield or the member for Murrumba, the former health minister? I would bet the member for Clayfield every day of the week. Not only that, we are not going to be lectured to by the member for Murrumba, a former failed Labor health minister who sits next to another former failed health minister.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: That is right: he also sits next to another former failed health minister to his right. There are three former failed health ministers in their leadership team. For 10 years those opposite did nothing about Labor's health crisis and now they would have us click our fingers and Labor's health crisis would be fixed, within 12 months of this new government. Queenslanders are reasonable people. They know it is going to take time to undo the mess and the misery created by the Labor Party.

We will not be lectured to by the Leader of the Opposition, who told Queenslanders during COVID to holiday at home and was then caught in Byron Bay with his own family. If you are going to lecture people, tell the truth. We will not be lectured to by the Labor Party about holidays when Shannon Fentiman went to Whistler with Jackie Trad and did not update her pecuniary interest register with the gift of her Labor mate. We will not be lectured to by the Labor Party when Shannon Fentiman and Mick de Brenni went to Splendour in the Grass when Mason Jett Lee lost his life, when she was the worst child safety minister. We will not be lectured to by the Labor Party on the failures in the last 10 years, because its record is a bad record—its record is bad—and our ministers are doing everything they can to fix the issues with regard to the four crises that we took to the election that were caused by the Labor Party.

It is quite clear from the unhinged and deranged 10 minutes we just heard from the Leader of the Opposition that he is a Leader of the Opposition—a leader of the Labor Party—under serious pressure and unfit to lead the Labor Party. When is the backbench in the Labor Party finally going to realise that 'Stuff-up Steven' is not good for the Labor Party? He is unfit to head the Labor Party. He was unfit for office when he was the premier. When is the Labor Party backbench finally going to start the political killing season as we know it with the Christmas coup? We know it is on and have also heard that it is not the member for Woodridge. He has all but given up now. He knows that when his mate to his right goes he also goes. The Leader of the Opposition continued to support the member for Cairns with the attacks he had on people of faith on his social media and the abuse on women.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. The member for McConnel always overreaches. It is okay: she was the one who did the big set-up of one individual and then the member for Cairns.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: What have you done about the member for Cairns? Why is he still—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am not responsible for the member for Cairns; you are. You can do something.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the Deputy Premier's use of appropriate titles. He used an inappropriate title. I would ask him to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. He does have a point, Deputy Premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. We have the member for McConnel and the Leader of the Opposition continuing to support the member for Cairns, who should not be in the shadow cabinet because of the attacks on women and the violence against women on the Facebook post that he shared.

We continue to see the Leader of the Opposition defend the former member for Caloundra. As I said this morning, the former member for Caloundra, Jason Hunt, defrauded Caloundra taxpayers of \$12,000. Here is a newsflash for the member for McConnel, who continues to interject: the former member for Caloundra defrauded taxpayers \$12,000 and could not pay his bills to Australia Post, but the member for Cooper, Jonty Bush, has just posted a picture of a fundraiser on the Queensland Labor Party website showing a big photo of Jason Hunt with the member for Cooper, so he could afford to go to Labor Party fundraisers but he cannot afford to pay his \$12,000 bill! I table a copy of that regarding the former member for Caloundra, Jason Hunt.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the member for Cooper, Ms Jonty Bush MP, in relation to Democracy Manifest Lunch [\[1560\]](#).

The Leader of the Opposition incited an insurrection against the Queensland government, ordered violence against members of parliament in this House, asked the people to burn down government buildings and then took his Facebook post down. He goes out the front of parliament and he stands up with young Labor Party members and fakes it, pretending they are real Queenslanders who he accidentally just happened to bump into coming out of QUT. Cut me a break! They are actors. He is an actor, but the act is done. His act is done. He is goneski. Everyone knows it. We know it. The Labor Party knows it. The question is: how long does the opposition leader have in that seat? I do not know who is going to take it over, but I would ask the opposition backbench: for our sake, for the government's sake, please keep him in the role!

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): Today I rise to speak on a matter of public importance. What is it with the Crisafulli LNP government and holidays? When the going gets tough, the LNP gets going alright—jetting off to somewhere, anywhere other than a destination called ‘ministerial accountability and responsibility’. What about that train wreck media conference by the health minister when he fumbled and bumbled his way through questions on his role in the debacle surrounding the appointment of the new Chief Health Officer? The member for Clayfield—the man who, by the LNP’s own measure, is now the worst health minister in Queensland history—put us all out of our misery when he cut the press conference short because he had a plane to catch to the other side of the country. It is just a pity for Queenslanders that he did not stay there!

Then the health minister really started chasing the platinum frequent flyer points. When it was revealed ambulance ramping had worsened to an alarming and record level and new crises had emerged at the Caboolture and Townsville hospitals, what did the minister do? When the going gets tough, the LNP really gets going—on holidays! The health minister jetted off on holidays. Oh, the poor thing! The member for Clayfield spent 10 years seeking ministerial office and after 11 months he was tired and out of puff.

The member for Clayfield was well known for being long on hot air and short on ticker when he was the leader of the LNP, but even for him this was a new low in laziness. After less than a year in government, the health minister could not wait to throw the sunglasses, the towel and the sunscreen in the bag and jet off. When the system started cracking under the pressure of the LNP’s failed health policies—gold-standard failures like putting doctors and nurses back in charge and implementing real-time data when patients’ lives were at risk—the health minister said, ‘No way! I’m on vacay!’ I hope the minister had a restful time while the health department staff were working flat out around the clock to fix the mess that had emerged on the minister’s watch.

Not to be outdone, when her department started going into IT meltdown, the child safety minister could not pack her bags fast enough. She went on holidays as well. It must have been crowded in the LNP departure lounge! The child safety minister went on hols the day after it was revealed her department had knowingly implemented an IT system that the minister herself had said put the lives of vulnerable children at risk.

Meanwhile, in air traffic control central, the chief air traffic controller, the Premier, was getting the ministerial holiday jets off the tarmac as quickly as possible. To be fair to the Premier, he did have donors to see and cash to rake in for the LNP at the LNP’s cash-for-access love-in. The Premier’s view is that serious health and child safety matters should not get in the way of a good ministerial holiday. We are not just seeing LNP ministers on holiday; what we are seeing is LNP leadership, transparency,

accountability, integrity and decency all on holidays—the very virtues the Premier promised Queenslanders his government would champion. Then there is the Premier's own integrity, which has taken an exceptionally long holiday indeed, including questions over his directorship of a company that traded while insolvent and the undeclared payment of \$200,000 the Premier made to try to make the problem go away.

I want to return to the LNP government's abject failure on health issues. The Premier categorically promised he would reduce the levels of ambulance ramping at our public hospitals—that is another broken promise. In recent weeks the latest analysis revealed that ambulance ramping in Queensland has hit a record high under the Premier and his failing health minister. A broken promise, a terrible outcome and a betrayal of the people of Queensland.

Following the tragic and avoidable death of Christine White, what did we hear from the health minister this morning in question time? The minister will not repeal the brutal KPIs that are crushing our frontline health heroes in emergency departments and putting lives at risk, will not ensure that rapid access doctors are available at every major hospital around the clock and will not refund the paltry \$65.75 the family was forced to pay to get their own mother's clinical records. He allowed his office staff to delete the family's comments on his Facebook page and then blocked them and, most callously of all, the minister refuses to even meet Christine White's family. The Crisafulli government is not the government that Queenslanders were told they were electing; it is a government that does not even care.

Labor Party, Performance

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.20 pm): After that diabolical diatribe from a try-hard who could not make it in Greenslopes and had to move to Woodridge, I am looking forward to having the call. The old door locker over there would not even allow his ministerial department to come in and look at his desk. He was so paranoid he put a keypad lock on the door between his office and his ministerial office. That is the history of the member for Woodridge. We all know the member for Woodridge, and all of his colleagues over there know the member for Woodridge. We remember the former member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller, who said, 'Come on, Cameron, we know what you are really after,' and what he is after is now out of his reach. It is so tantalisingly close—just one step away—but it is not coming his way, because the member for Waterford is sitting there ready to go. That is the history of the member for Woodridge. When the going gets tough, what does the member for Woodridge do? He leaves his old electorate and tries to find another safer one.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Order! Members, order!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members for Pine Rivers, Logan and Lytton, you all continued to interject after I had called the House to order. You are all warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: What do we see from the most well paid, laziest Leader of the Opposition, the member for Murrumba, who is under pressure, under the pump and underperforming? He spends more time correcting his Facebook posts than he does actually developing a policy. We have heard no policies from those over there. They have been in office a year and we have heard absolutely nothing. What we have heard is a total lack of respect for the hardworking clinicians who work in our health facilities across the state providing services to hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders across the state. Both the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Miller have a record of being forced to apologise in this place for misleading this House in relation to statements they make trashing and traducing the reputation of hardworking clinicians across the state. Whether it is around the provision of perinatal and mental health services or the delivery of our hospital and health services, they and others are forced to stand up and apologise for misleading the House.

This morning in question time we saw the most recent example of the opposition not respecting our health workers and undermining the public's confidence in Queensland's health system. The Leader of the Opposition tabled a document that had been heavily redacted. That is a copy of the document that has already been tabled. That document has been heavily altered by the Leader of the Opposition. It is not the redacted document that was provided; it is a changed redacted document that has been tabled in here. It is not the document that was provided. That, again, is the Leader of the Opposition playing fast and loose with the truth in this place. That is the style of the Leader of the Opposition. He sought to weaponise a family's genuine distress for base political purposes, and it is not the first time.

We have seen them attempt this before and we have also seen it happen with the member for Miller who, having been granted an inspection of the Toowoomba Hospital and health service and having been provided the whole tour and information, stood up and misrepresented facts and figures. He has so far failed to fulsomely apologise and has only done so in a mealy-mouthed manner by posting an apology to his 800 followers on Bluesky—not on the Facebook post that he posted initially. It is a mealy-mouthed apology by an underperforming shadow health minister under an underperforming opposition leader.

It is in the public interest that the people of Ipswich have confidence in the delivery of health services and given the opposition leader brought the tragic case of Ms Christine White to this House, I call on the Leader of the Opposition to table the document without the selective edits. He is proud enough to do it with his selective edits. Does he have the ticker to actually table the release as it was provided to him? He should have the ticker that he does not show in this place to even attempt.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (2.25 pm): The only person in the House at the moment who enjoyed that last contribution was the member for Moggill. He really should be the health minister because this minister is clearly struggling. You know that he is out of his depth because they have not even been in government for 12 months and all they can do when they get up to speak on these matters of public importance is make personal attacks. When you cannot talk solidly about your policy, your department and what you are delivering and all you can do is just rant on about personal attacks on things that happened years ago, you know you are in trouble.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Direct your comments through the chair, member.

Ms GRACE: The Minister for Health has not even been in here for 12 months and he has taken a holiday already. I cannot remember when I took a holiday after I became a minister. Then, they raise all these furbies. The document that he was referring to was redacted—for no other reason than it was personal medical history and information that is not to be tabled in the House. He knows it, the Parliament knows it, we know it, but it does not stop him mixing the truth. Instead of carrying on about documents, why does he not just meet the family? When they were on this side of the House they kept saying, 'Has the minister met the family? Have they made an arrangement?' Isn't it interesting that when the shoe is on the other foot, on the other side of this chamber, they do not want to meet? We plead with you, because it is so heartless. They are here now. They have been asking. Do not block them on your Facebook page—meet with them. They need respect and they need to be listened to.

Here we have a minister who was so critical in opposition of us. We met, I think, on every occasion. I do not think there would have been one occasion when the then premier or health minister did not meet with someone who was in crisis. Yet what do we get from those opposite? Absolute blocking. They even blocked them from their Facebook page. What a disgrace! The other disgrace is they went to the election saying that they would listen to the experts, put doctors and nurses back in charge like they were in the beginning. What have they done? The whole time—what a joke—they ignored anything they said.

Look at the CHO appointment that is before the CCC. Why wasn't the health minister vocal back then about stepping aside? We did the right thing and all we are asking for is the same standard as when we were in government. We hear the patronising calls from those opposite—'Oh, we know it is really hard in opposition.' I will let you in on a secret, having been a minister for many years in this place: it is harder in government. It is harder to deliver and it is harder to do the job you have to do. You do not go on holidays when the going gets tough—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Direct your comments through the chair, member.

Ms GRACE: You stay in this House, cop it and work through it. As with the CHO appointment, the experts were completely ignored. In relation to ramping, those opposite said the previous health minister was the worst health minister because they had the worst ramping. Guess who has the worst ramping in history in the state right now? You would not know it because those opposite are lecturing us about ramping. It is unbelievable.

At the last sitting of parliament we had a disgraceful display when at the last minute those opposite stifled any debate in relation to banning pill testing. Democracy is dead under this government. Those opposite ignored every expert, medical professionals, paramedics, police, parents and young people. The University of Queensland has put out a report saying that pill testing does not do anything to encourage taking drugs.

Mr Nicholls: Did you read the report?

Ms GRACE: The report is very good. I will take that interjection. I read the report because my adult child gave it to me. Let us hope that none of our family members become victims of this cruel hoax by the health minister in those last-minute amendments. It has killed democracy in this state. Those opposite have stopped debate; they have silenced any voices. It is a disgrace. We will not be lectured to by those opposite because we know what we delivered in government.

Wangetti Trail

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.31 pm): I am pleased to update the House on the Wangetti Trail—a project the Crisafulli government has put back on track. After years of delay under Labor, the Crisafulli government is doing what we said we would do: we are delivering on our shared vision with the tourism industry—Destination 2045—and we are delivering for the people of Tropical North Queensland and the countless tourists who visit there each year.

We are making exciting progress to deliver a world-class trail that not only showcases the breathtaking beauty of the Far North but also meets the needs of the local communities that live alongside it. Under Labor, the Wangetti Trail became the most expensive footpath in Australia, with almost half the budget spent on just eight per cent of the track: \$22½ million was spent delivering just over seven kilometres of a 94-kilometre project. The Crisafulli government will deliver a world-class trail. We simply respect Queenslanders' money too much to rush this. We are going to get it right and in doing so deliver more, sooner and for less taxpayer dollars.

I would like to update Queensland on a couple of key changes. This project is now being delivered by a dedicated Cairns-based team within Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. This decision has been a game changer. It has brought local knowledge, accountability and momentum to a project that stalled for far too long. I can also report that construction of the Ellis Beach to Wangetti link will begin as early as possible following the wet season in 2026.

As exciting as those updates are, it is the next piece of news that I know will create a lot of excitement in the Far North. Because we have put a team on the ground in Cairns, because we have listened to our amazing local members—the member for Cook, David Kempton, and the member for Barron River, Bree James—and because they have in turn listened to the residents, Queensland Parks and Wildlife are immediately working to reopen the much loved Twin Bridges Track, a multiuse trail that links Quaid Road at Wangetti with the Bump Track at Mowbray National Park. The track closed after the cyclone in 2020 and calls for it to be reopened fell on deaf ears under the former Labor minister and current member for Cairns. The Crisafulli government is proud to bring it back online. It is literally taking a chainsaw, a blower, some really hard yakka from our tireless rangers and a couple of new bridges and we will restore this much loved and vital link.

What does this mean for the Wangetti Trail? It means that the Crisafulli government will deliver a connection all the way from Palm Cove to Port Douglas in one term. It took Labor three terms to deliver just seven kilometres. Locals and tourists alike need to know we will not stop there. We will be looking at exciting new trails that highlight the spectacular waterfalls and views of the beautiful Wet Tropics. We will work with our rangers and the private sector to deliver accommodation options on the trail, from the very basic to the deluxe. We will continue to work with the Cairns and Douglas councils and private operators like Hartley's to deliver trail heads and car parks. We will work with the Douglas Shire Council to deliver connections from the Bump Track in Mowbray to the centre of Port Douglas itself. Because we know that community support is essential, we are establishing a Wangetti advisory committee that will meet for the first time on 24 October 2025. We are bringing the community along on this journey.

I would like to also use this opportunity to provide an update on the Smithfield Mountain Bike Park. Work is progressing apace on this nationally significant destination, with the design contract to be awarded this month. The Smithfield Project Advisory Committee met recently, reaffirming our commitment to community collaboration. This collaboration will ensure the expanded trail network meets expectations and drives economic benefits as part of our bold tourism strategy, Destination 2045. Our approach is delivering a trail network across Tropical North Queensland that is exciting, is iconic and balances community input, environmental stewardship and economic opportunity. The Crisafulli government is doing what successive Labor governments could not: delivering a Wangetti Trail everyone will be proud of.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (2.36 pm): Right now in Queensland, ramping is the worst it has ever been. Dangerous KPIs set by this health minister are harming patients and leaving families devastated. There are major investigations underway at Caboolture into imaging, there are major investigations in Townsville into urology and there is a measles outbreak spreading across the state. What have we seen from this health minister? What has he said to the families? Has he spent time with them talking about having lost their loved ones? No, he has been on holidays. Queensland families are the ones paying the price.

Queenslanders will continue to pay with their health as we reveal that the LNP has now cut funding for skin cancer awareness campaigns. I want everyone to be aware that Queensland is the skin cancer capital of the world. If we are going to have any hope of ever making sure we see fewer Queenslanders with skin cancer, we have to invest in skin cancer awareness campaigns. It is a huge slap in the face to Queenslanders.

The decision to scrap Queensland's skin cancer awareness campaign is not just short-sighted; it is reckless and it is careless. How many millions are currently being spent advertising the so-called Hospital Rescue Plan? How much money is being spent turning everything from maroon to blue? When it comes to protecting Queenslanders from skin cancer, spending money is apparently not worth it. I would say that \$2.1 million is a minuscule price to pay if it means one Queensland family is spared the heartbreak of a melanoma diagnosis.

It does not stop there. While the health system is in crisis and Queenslanders are losing access to prevention campaigns, our state has seen a worrying return of a disease that we thought we had beaten: measles. We eradicated measles in this state in 2014. We know how dangerous measles can be for babies and immunocompromised people. We eradicated measles through an excellent vaccination campaign where leaders in this state stood up and encouraged people to get vaccinated. Is that what we have seen from this Premier? They are too busy pandering to the dangerous anti-vaxxers that this Premier will not even stand up and say, 'Queensland families, please get your children vaccinated for measles and, while you are at it, get your kids and yourself vaccinated for the flu.' That is what we expect of our leaders.

Heading into this election, the Premier promised to put the experts back in charge. I can tell members what the experts are saying: we need leadership and we need people to tell families to get vaccinated. A deliberate decision not to tell Queenslanders if you have had your vaccination or a deliberate decision not to encourage Queenslanders goes against all medical advice. Recently, I stood with frontline health worker Jason, a pharmacist in Cairns, who is responding directly to the ground zero outbreak happening right now in Far North Queensland. He said very plainly that the most effective thing to fight measles is to get vaccinated. He said that 1,000 per cent it makes a difference when leaders stand up and encourage the community to get vaccinated.

Queensland has the lowest vaccination rates in the country but apparently the Deputy Premier says that is okay. It is not okay. We had eradicated measles years ago. We need leadership and we need it now. When I stood up to encourage families in Cairns to get vaccinated, the Premier called it out. He said I was weaponising vaccinations and that I was frightening people. I am not sure if the Premier has ever seen a baby with measles but that is what is frightening.

We can all do our communities a favour. When we leave this place at the end of the week, let us go out into our communities and encourage families to get vaccinated. That is leadership and that is what our communities need. That is how we keep each other safe.

Torres Strait, Women's Shelters



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) (2.41 pm): I note today we have visitors from the Torres Strait. They are incredible women who are participating in the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation leaders' course. I was privileged to participate in that program alongside other members sponsored by the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. It is an incredible program and I wish them every success.

About 10 days ago, it was a real privilege to be in the Torres Strait with my colleague the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister O'Connor. While there we met with the Remote Indigenous Women's Shelter Network, after meeting them in Cairns. We sat with them for several hours and heard about the challenges faced across our discrete communities. We heard about the inadequate funding

that they had received over the past decade. I could not believe that they had had no gas for more than 10 months and bathrooms had been boarded up for several years. There are water leaks. There has been no maintenance. There are no locks on windows, doors or gates. Those are our women's shelters. Just because they are in the Far North they should not be forgotten. I use the example that if these things happen in Brisbane they would be fixed within hours. It was great to have the minister there. I was pleased that we were able to get the gas turned on within 24 hours.

We are now working with the Lena Passi Women's Shelter. Their lease expired in 2022 and the former Labor government did nothing. We are sorting that out. There is a lack of basic services. I note the queue that they are in with QBuild after 18 months. The minister and I discovered that, because no funding was allocated by the previous government, no investment has been made in remote shelters for many years. That affects, in particular, the impact that they feel on the back of natural disasters. Challenges include the general layout of the shelter, security, poor infrastructure in general and nil CCTV coverage. The location of the shelter is widely known across the small island community. The saving grace, which they shared with us, is that they are near the police station. There is no air conditioning because it is too expensive to run and maintain. This is not good enough. I will be working very closely with the Minister for Housing to ensure that not just the Lena Passi Women's Shelter in the Torres Strait but all women's shelters in the cape are fitted out to a standard that ensures the safety of women and children and that ensures they are operational during natural disaster season. Sadly, many shelters have been locked up for months on end due to poor maintenance.

I acknowledge the incredible work of the Mura Kosker Sorority. We met with members of the sorority that afternoon. I thank them for their hospitality. We heard very clearly about the challenges they have with their travel budget. The challenges of remote travel that they have to undertake are significant. We also met with the mayor and the council and spoke about home ownership and the opportunities that we see for locals in the community, which is very exciting. I congratulate the new CEO of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council on her appointment. They have a big vision and we look forward to working with them.

I take this opportunity to highlight an announcement that I was very proud to make and that is a first in Queensland. Along with the domestic violence peak, we are bringing forward work led by the Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network and I met with them in Mackay on Monday morning. The Crisafulli government is committed to investing in the First Nations primary prevention group, chaired by Wynetta Dewis. We are also ensuring funding and ongoing support for the Remote Indigenous Women's Shelter Network, under the leadership of Karen Dini-Paul. We are committed to ensuring that there is real investment in building capacity in the sector to ensure that solutions led by First Nations community elders are able to be resourced and put in place. Over the next five years our government will make a significant investment into both organisations. I look forward to working closely with them to deliver Closing the Gap outcomes.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (2.46 pm): It has been a year of carnage when it comes to the Health portfolio under this minister with broken promises, scandals and debacles that keep going and going. In July, under this minister, we saw the worst ramping figures in Queensland history. Let us look at the long line of scandals and embarrassments. Not only did we see record ramping, but we heard the minister blame the nurses for that ramping. I think that was one of the most disgraceful acts in the 12 months that he has been the minister. The CHO appointment is now being investigated by the CCC and I note the lack of questions answered on that. We have seen leaks from the government itself in terms of the corflutes on the rejected successful candidate's house and we wonder from where they came.

We have seen pill testing, which is best practice health care, proudly banned by a government that reacts to ideology but not to health care that saves lives and minimises harm. That is the very clear advice from all the stakeholders in the medical profession and was included in the evaluation report that not only backed the effectiveness of pill testing but also backed the proposal that it be rolled out much further to save lives. Sadly, recently someone died having taken something that they had ordered.

We see the embarrassing situation with the Coomera Hospital site, where nothing is happening. Now the government is haggling with the council, putting the project back even further and letting down Gold Coast residents when it comes to health care. They have not committed to a new major project whatsoever and they have put off the hospital expansion indefinitely. We see them run away from their

commitment to provide 2,200 beds by 2028. The minister was caught out trying to suggest they had never made that commitment at all, but then the video was leaked to the media outlining exactly what their election commitment was. It is another of their broken promises in health.

We have seen the terrible situation with the recent death of Christine White, which has been well covered by my colleagues here. My heart goes out to the family. I also met with them. They are dealing with something that they should not have had to deal with.

We see measles outbreaks and alerts. Measles in 2025! That is happening in Brisbane and on the Sunshine Coast on this minister's watch because he has not been across the preventive health strategies that are basic in this modern age. We have seen his mismanagement of the flu season, which put back elective surgeries at four hospitals on the north side and at Toowoomba Hospital.

We know that stakeholders cannot get near the minister. They get sent somebody from the office. They cannot get to this aloof minister, who is out of touch and not interested in working with major stakeholders. As reported recently, we see regional doctors getting burnt out and leaving in droves. There is inaction on the spinal injuries unit at the PA Hospital, where there is a desperate need for greater capacity and an upgrade to contemporary standards. There is nothing from the minister other than inaction.

If ever you want an example of this, there is the speech just given by the minister: five minutes of diatribe and abuse—not one single defence of his own health agenda because he does not have one. He stopped new patients at the gender clinic from getting any treatment whatsoever. I hope he is proud of himself! That community will not forget his betrayal of the health care of those people. He axed advertising for skin cancer, as outlined by the member for Waterford.

We see hospital expansions blocked indefinitely in Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. After great pressure from the member for Bancroft, they have finally put tenders out for Redcliffe Hospital. This is only because they were shamed into doing it. Let us see how that goes. We have seen the recent crisis at the Townsville Hospital, with a part 9 investigation launched into the situation with the urology department. We have seen the Caboolture scan crisis get worse, with 3½ thousand added to the number of those affected after they were categorical that it was 9,000 affected. We now know it is more than 12½ thousand affected.

I went doorknocking in the member for Clayfield's electorate while he was overseas. After 90 minutes I had four negative reviews on the member for Clayfield. There was not one positive message. His profile in his own electorate is as bad as it is broadly.

We have seen numbers of breast screenings go down. We have seen the number of cervical screenings go down, as the budget papers show. More money has been spent on their so-called self-promotion than flu promotion. There have been cuts to skin cancer promotion. We see the minister opening numerous Labor projects, trying to pretend that they are their projects. It is pathetic. He is a pathetic health minister who has performed terribly.

Member for Miller; Youth Crime



Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.51 pm): The irony of having to follow the failed former transport minister! He had to sack himself from cabinet as a result of leaks in his own faction. They leaked to the paper that if he did not sack himself there would be a revolt and he would be sacked. He is the only minister to ever be called foolish by the CCC.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. It does not make a lot of sense, but it is still offensive. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw. Let me explain—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): One moment, member for Currumbin. Member for Bundaberg, you have been sailing close to the wind for quite a while. You are warned. Member for McConnel, you are very close.

Mrs GERBER: Let me explain this to the member for Miller. He sacked himself. The headline in the *Australian* at the time was 'Mark Bailey quits Queensland cabinet before he can be sacked in impending reshuffle'. The irony of that failed minister standing up today and trying to criticise a government that has been in government for just under 12 months—a government that is delivering for

Queenslanders. This is a failed former transport minister who forgot to order the trains for Cross River Rail, which was part of his portfolio. It has been revealed today that Labor did not even plan for trains to be here when Cross River Rail was opened. That is the failure of that former minister.

A government member interjected.

Mrs GERBER: He was the worst minister ever; I will take the interjection. Unlike the member for Miller, the failed former transport minister, who had to sack himself—there were headlines like ‘... Bailey quits ... cabinet before he can be sacked ...’—the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queenslanders.

I will read some of the recent headlines in relation to the Crisafulli government and how we are delivering for Queenslanders. There are headlines like ‘Crimes finally go down’. That is from the *Townsville Bulletin*.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, you are warned.

Mrs GERBER: The headlines continue: ‘Victim figures plunge’. That is from the *Courier-Mail*. From the *Cairns Post* there is the headline ‘Adult Crime, Adult Time: 14k charges in youth crime crackdown’. 9News from 7 October read, ‘Queensland crime rates down 10.8 per cent under “adult crime, adult time” laws’. I table those articles.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents relating to crime statistics [\[1561\]](#).

Even interstate they are recognising the Crisafulli government for delivering for Queenslanders. The New South Wales Moree news reports ‘Queensland: Fewer victims of crime as 2986 charged under Adult Crime, Adult Time’. In Victoria—a Labor state—the *Herald Sun* read, ‘Thousands of Queenslanders spared trauma of becoming a crime statistic thanks to tough-on-crime government’. That is what delivering for Queensland looks like.

That is not all. From Cooktown to Coolangatta, we are rolling out our new Kickstarter programs—Gold Standard Early Intervention being delivered right across this state. As part of that, our Proven Initiatives project, which is part of Gold Standard Early Intervention, is out to market, with expressions of interest still open. Expressions of interest for Proven Initiatives close on 20 October. This is to allow community-led organisations delivering Gold Standard Early Intervention across Queensland to have the ability to receive ongoing funding as part of our crime prevention initiatives if they can deliver on key performance indicators of youth not committing crime during the program; school attendance and training; engaging in community; and having regular contact with the program. This will allow for those community organisations to not have to live grant by grant as they had to previously. It will allow them to receive some ongoing funding to deliver the amazing crime prevention programs that they are currently delivering. We are delivering the laws and we are delivering the programs to make our community safer. We are doing it in every corner of this state.

We know that there is still more work to be done because we had 10 years of Labor decline. We had 10 years of Labor letting the youth crime crisis rip through this state, and we have to try to unwind that. For the first time in more than a decade, Queenslanders can see that they have a government on their side—a government that will not rest until victims are front and centre in our justice system. We are delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for—that is, where every single person can feel safe in their home, in their community and in their business and where finally in this state we are starting to see fewer victims of crime.

CopperString



Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (2.56 pm): Words coming from politicians and going out to the real world can be cheap. I think we are battling a future where people will rely less on what is said in parliament and more on whether things eventuate out in the community. That could be no truer than in terms of the larger infrastructure projects that exist outside the city. The energy transition plan was delivered by the Treasurer last week. The many people who are invested in the prosperity of North Queensland on the CopperString line were listening with bated breath to what was said.

CopperString was announced by Labor in March 2023. That is over 2½ years ago. The expectation was then that construction would start in the last term of parliament. Here we are now with no construction started. When this was originally started 15 years ago, discussion was around addressing the fact that in North Queensland we were paying of the highest power prices in the world. Since then, the major parties have pursued net zero. As an adjunct came renewables. That helped the

political ascendancy of that. That is fine. Here we are now with nothing out of the ground and looking for announcements and bankable commitments so that people can unlock the \$700 billion worth of metals in the ground.

Before I go on, I would say that I would hope we are all here to try to build wealth for the state for the future. I would hope that would always be a primary interest of any of us, wherever we live in Queensland—that is, anything we can invest in that will give a great return. We have \$700 billion in metals out there but we are hamstrung by expensive power costs. We need to connect it to the grid. The Treasurer said in April this year—

The CopperString project is a 1,100-kilometre high-voltage transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa ...

He also said—

The commitment was simple: the Crisafulli government is saving CopperString and it will be built from Townsville to Mount Isa.

Then the Treasurer said—

Eastern Link from Hughenden to Townsville will be completed by 2032, with construction on track for 2028 ...

That half of the CopperString line finished by 2032. For an investor now in the mining industry—I have spoken to a couple of big miners out there over the last couple of days—their confidence is less now that CopperString will be built than it was at the beginning. If you cannot give a date, if you cannot say like with the Olympics, 'It will be finished by 2032'—and that is only for half of it; that only gets it to Hughenden, which defeats the whole purpose really—it is hard to understand the commitment.

The impetus at the start was to get coal-fired power off the grid out to Mount Isa so we could have competition out there and we would make it sing. If that is the primary concern, it is for those people out there to take advantage of that, and I acknowledge the \$250 million is a sweetener to absorb the fact that there is no commitment on the timing at all. If you are looking down the barrel and you have hundreds of millions of dollars to invest in capital upgrades, or billions of dollars if you are a new mine in the north-west, to unlock that \$700 billion worth of metals you have to have a bankable timeframe from the government. That is not there. It is hard to understand what the commitment is if you cannot give a timeframe.

I have the utmost respect for the Treasurer; I think he is a man of integrity. I am probably more so talking to the Treasury department here. It is good if you want to balance your books, but it is not good if you want to build industry in Queensland. If you want to say, 'We are going to unlock those metals,' they are probably not the best people to talk to. They do not really know mining. They do not know what the potential is out there, but they are going to feed you things that do not add up. It does not work. That is when we have to put the big-boy pants on and tell them, 'We are building it anyway. It will be built by this date.' The people of Queensland will respond to that. I think they would love to see a government that says, 'Spare no expense and build that thing. Get it out there because we know it will create jobs. It will create industry and it will be there for our grandkids.'

That is the confidence the people are yearning for out there in voter land. They do not want words or spin or anything on top of that. I think the Treasurer's words come from a good place. I think he means what he says, but that is not bankable. I am hearing directly from the miners that they cannot make billion dollar decisions on the Treasurer saying, 'It will be built.' If you cannot give a timeframe or a cost at this point, you would have to assume there is no plan for it to be built. Why would it take seven years to build? Are we going back for approvals for a third time? Heaven help us and the future of Australia if we do because it will take another two years for the Australian government to grant approvals to build something.

QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3011, on motion of Mr Nicholls—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Mr MARTIN (Stretton—ALP) (3.02 pm): I rise today in support of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill, a modernisation of nearly 80-year-old legislation that governs one of our state's most prestigious medical research institutions. For nearly 80 years QIMR has stood at the forefront of medical innovation in Queensland. From early postwar years through to now, generations of scientists, clinicians and collaborators have worked tirelessly to improve the health and wellbeing of people across

our state and our nation. The institute's reputation as a world-class medical research facility is a source of great pride for Queenslanders, and it continues to attract global partnerships and investment because of its excellence and integrity.

The Labor opposition will always support QIMR and the extraordinary people who make it is what it is. We acknowledge and thank the scientists, researchers, technicians and students whose work each day leads to discoveries that save lives. We also recognise the commitment of the council, both past and present, whose stewardship has maintained the institution's independence and scientific integrity through many decades of change.

Queenslanders have benefited immeasurably from QIMR's breakthroughs. The discovery of Ross River virus in 1963 placed Queensland scientists on the world stage. Groundbreaking melanoma and skin cancer research has improved survival rates and shaped national and Queensland prevention programs, and that is why it is so disappointing to hear that the LNP have made a decision to axe skincare prevention campaigns. It is dangerous and irresponsible to be ripping \$2.1 million out of skin cancer awareness in the budget in the skin cancer capital of the world. It certainly shows the nature of the LNP. They are happy to stand up in this place and say they support QIMR, but behind the scenes they cut funding to a program that the QIMR itself helped to create.

Most recently, QIMR's expertise supported the Labor government's public health strategy during COVID-19, assisting in vaccine evaluation and community health modelling when Queensland needed it most. These are not just achievements in a laboratory; they are triumphs of public service, collaboration and science in action. Again, that is why it is so disappointing to hear that anti-vax and anti-science sentiments are creeping in and have contributed to the return of measles. The LNP need to do better on public health and better on supporting vaccination programs.

This bill repeals and replaces the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945, recognising that the existing law no longer meets contemporary governance standards for an institute of this size with this much global impact. Under the proposed framework the QIMR will have clearer governance provisions, including conflict of interest rules; the council will be empowered with delegation powers to improve responsiveness; there will be stricter integrity safeguards, such as criminal history checks for council appointees and mandatory ministerial notifications when financial or management issues arise; and, most significantly, there will be enhanced incentive arrangements for commercialisation, pivotal for translating research into real-world impact.

While a number of these reforms are welcome, including the principle of incentive payments to appropriately value hardworking and dedicated scientists and researchers, clarification is needed regarding notification to the minister on matters that raise significant concerns in modernisation of the legislation to reflect the scale, function and role of the institute today. The devil, as they say, is in the detail. In particular, the new council appointment process is particularly concerning, especially the removal of Governor in Council oversight for appointments to the council, something that smacks of 'jobs for mates'. The LNP need to explain how open, merit-based and transparent appointments to the QIMR council will occur.

Let me go through some of the key changes. One striking feature is the way the bill reshapes the relationship between publicly funded research and commercial gain. While it rightly acknowledges the potential of Queensland's medical research to generate new treatments and drugs, the bill is silent on exactly how the financial benefits of that success will be distributed. It makes provision for intellectual property and commercialisation, but there is little clarity on whether PhD students, postdoctoral researchers or other early-career researchers—the people who do all the day-to-day work—will share in the financial rewards. This lack of definition could mean institutions and senior executives capture a disproportionate benefit from breakthroughs that were made by others. The LNP must clearly explain how they can ensure benefits are shared appropriately and provide it to the people who actually do the work.

Another aspect is the broad discretion the bill gives the QIMR council in reaching commercial arrangements. While it empowers the council to enter into joint ventures, partnerships and other financial structures, the bill does not impose strong transparency or reporting requirements to parliament. This means highly valuable public assets such as research findings, drug candidates and biotechnological platforms could be leveraged or even privatised with limited external scrutiny. Again, the LNP must provide assurances to parliament that these public assets will not be arbitrarily privatised.

As mentioned earlier, the bill maintains that council members are to be appointed by the minister rather than having Governor in Council oversight and that appointees will require appropriate qualifications in areas such as governance, research, ethics and commercialisation, amongst others.

Given this change, we must scrutinise how these appointments will occur and whom the minister will select. In particular, will these appointments be truly contestable and open, allowing our best researchers a fair opportunity? Will diversity and representation, including the inclusion of women and First Nations people, be actively prioritised? Given the high stakes in medical research, how will these appointments be shielded from partisan bias? Will researchers and other appropriately qualified individuals be appointed to these independent positions irrespective of their political beliefs? We all heard what happened with the CHO.

Queensland's medical research sector is a cornerstone of our future prosperity. It not only saves lives; it creates jobs, drives innovation and builds partnerships that position Queensland on the global stage. Every dollar invested in research returns multiple dollars in economic and social value. Protecting the independence and integrity of institutions like the QIMR is not optional; it is essential.

Without transparency and accountability, all of this runs the risk of being undermined. We call on the government to answer how it will ensure open, merit-based and transparent appointments. Will the government support embedding diversity targets from a truly bipartisan and independent selection panel? Will it commission regular reviews of the council's composition and performance and report back to parliament?

It is no secret that the key components of this bill originated from Labor, rooted in our longstanding advocacy of QIMR's modernisation. While we support the bill, we must ask: will the LNP support genuine reform or will they undermine the principles put forward in the bill through sloppy governance and a biased appointment process? I urge the LNP to stop appointing LNP mates to important positions. Let's all support the bill and commit to ensuring it delivers for our researchers and communities, not for the LNP political party.

To conclude, this bill represents a real opportunity to modernise the way QIMR works and provides the incentives it requires to succeed in its mission on the national and international stage. All research institutions of global standing must be governed in the public interest, not for political expediency. Those opposite must ensure: the researchers themselves receive appropriate financial benefit from their work when successful commercialisation occurs; transparent criteria exist for commercialisation; and they resist the temptation to appoint their own people to the QIMR council through implementing a bipartisan selection committee to ensure the best and brightest are included, building a world-class legacy for QIMR and the excellent work that it undertakes.

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (3.10 pm): I rise today to speak on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. This bill repeals and replaces the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945, bringing the governance and operation of this world-class research institute into line with modern legislative and accountability standards.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research, better known as QIMR Berghofer, is home to around 1,000 scientists, staff and students. It is globally recognised for its breakthroughs in immunotherapy, genomics and research into skin cancer, malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases. Its discoveries have shaped health outcomes here in Queensland and around the world, yet the legislation underpinning its governance dates back 80 years. In fact, the first QIMR buildings were decommissioned World War II US army huts. I also note that QIMR scientists were recently at Pioneer State High School in Mackay, encouraging the students to consider scientific research. They are always welcome in Mackay schools.

The bill before us modernises that old framework, ensuring the institute remains a leader in medical innovation well into the future. Why is reform needed? The 1945 act has been amended many times, but it no longer reflects contemporary governance standards. It lacks clear provisions on council membership, integrity, safeguards, conflict-of-interest requirements and the ability to delegate functions for administrative efficiency. These gaps risk undermining transparency and accountability.

At a time when Queensland is positioning itself as a hub for medical and biotechnological innovation, we cannot allow outdated governance structures to hold back one of the most important research institutions. This bill provides clarity, strengthens integrity measures and ensures the institute can continue to attract funding, partnerships and the best researchers in the world.

At the recent public briefing of the Primary Industries and Resources Committee, I made the point that the Queensland Institute of Medical Research is not just a state asset; it is, in my words, a worldwide organisation. QIMR is home to more than 1,000 scientists, 380 active patents and hundreds of commercial agreements. It is at the forefront of research into cancer, dementia, infectious diseases and mental health—areas of research that touch almost every Queensland family.

When I asked how this bill would impact QIMR's international partnerships, Queensland Health confirmed that the legislation will shore up the institute and, through stronger integrity and governance, make it more attractive and less risky for investment from all regions. That is so important because this is not just about dollars; it is about people. These reforms will attract world-class scientists, secure international research collaborations and give Queensland the confidence to lead in global discovery.

Importantly, this bill also clarifies how the institute can manage complex donations—things like property and shares—so there is never a question about transparency or misuse. As Queensland Health told us—

Where there is ambiguity, there is also a risk of there being a perception that the statutory entity is misusing those assets.

This bill removes that risk. For Mackay and regional Queensland, this is more than policy; it is personal. When somebody from Moranbah, Sarina or Proserpine is diagnosed with cancer or a rare disease, they should not have to fly interstate for cutting-edge treatment or wait for years while overseas researchers lead the way. Strengthening QIMR's capacity means more clinical trials here in Queensland, more access to breakthrough therapies and, ultimately, more lives saved.

This bill is not just about modernising an 80-year-old act; it is about ensuring Queensland continues to punch above its weight on the world stage. It is about giving our researchers the tools to discover the next cancer therapy, the next vaccine and the next medical breakthrough and making sure these discoveries are delivered here first for Queenslanders. I am proud to support a bill that strengthens QIMR's governance, protects its integrity and keeps Queensland at the forefront of global medical innovation. This is good legislation. This is good news for every Queensland family. I echo QIMR's motto: better health through medical research. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (3.16 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. I thank the Primary Industries and Resources Committee for their work on this bill and I also thank QIMR for their enormous contribution since their inception in 1945. I am not sure if there are still QIMR people in the gallery, but I want to thank them and all of the scientists, staff and students—I understand there are over 1,000 of those. I will read out a lovely quote from the committee report in a moment about the importance of those people, of those researchers, which was recognised right from the beginning. They have our respect.

They have obviously been making a difference to patients not just in theory but also in reality through their research into malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases and into the genetic risk factors associated with various cancers and mental health conditions. The name Greg Adam will not mean anything to anybody in this House, but he was a very close relative who had a long relationship with QIMR before he passed away, and I thank them for their work on myopia.

I can only imagine how mortified the QIMR staff were to hear that this government has cut around \$2 million from their skin cancer awareness campaign. The QSkin Sun and Health Study is literally one of the largest research studies—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member's contribution is not relevant to the subject matter of the bill before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Bulimba, it would be appreciated if you could direct your comments to the long title of the bill.

Ms FARMER: It is about the research work of QIMR. The QSkin study reflects QIMR's long history of research into sun safety and shows that public health programs promoting sun protection can save lives, which is why this cut in funding is so damaging.

It is lovely to see some of the history reflected in the committee report, and I thank the committee for allowing us to see that because it is important to know the story. I will read out one quote from Tom Foley, who was the then secretary for health and home affairs. Although the profile is slightly different these days, it really says something about the workers of QIMR. He stated—

The research worker is international in outlook, and is willing to sacrifice many hours of labour even his life in the interests of his science. I have pointed out earlier that many research workers infect themselves with a virus or a serum in order that they may study its effects and thus they take a risk of death or recovery. Some die. The research worker is unselfish in the highest degree. His work involves great sacrifice, it is international in character, and in any country where such an institution as we propose to establish is set up, we must see that they are well paid and that they have the necessary facilities to carry out their work.

Fortunately we are not asking research workers to put their lives on the line, but this goes to the point of why it is so important that the legislation around QIMR is really sound. It has been significantly amended in the last 80 years, but it is clear, as the explanatory notes say, that the act 'no longer meets

the legislative expectations or governance standards appropriate for a modern, world-class research institution of the Institute's size and complexity'. We do not want to hold QIMR back, as has been already reflected by the opposition speakers before me.

We support any efforts to modernise QIMR and to make positive changes. Our only reservation is in regard to the removal of the Governor in Council oversight in respect of appointments to the council of QIMR, particularly—and these are the exact words in the statement of reservation in the committee report—'because it is understood that nearly all similar governing bodies that the Queensland Government is responsible for requires Governor-in-Council approval for appointments'. I refer to clause 11 of the bill.

The long title of the bill says that it is a bill for 'an Act to provide for the administration and operation of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research', which goes to the heart of the council, and of clause 11. I note that the minister spent quite some time talking about this particular clause this morning and made a number of statements, including that this clause would make appointments more efficient. I have heard several other government members say the same thing. Somehow all of the other statutory bodies and other government bodies do not require their appointments to be more efficient, but they can be absolutely efficient even when they have Governor in Council approval.

We are really concerned that there is no check and balance of the government appointing these council members, and if we leave it up to the government there is virtually no scrutiny at all. I appreciate, as the minister pointed out, that QIMR supported this clause. I certainly cannot speak on their behalf, but I imagine that they have assumed the government is going to appoint the best person for the job—that it is going to be a skill-based council, as you would assume for a body of this stature, and that they are going to be people who can make an actual contribution to the important work of the council.

However, we have so much on record now, just in 12 months, of people being appointed to incredibly important boards on the basis of their connection to the LNP. We have the TAFE board, for instance, which has hugely important responsibilities for Queensland and Queenslanders. A group of property developers have now taken over the TAFE board, with Viv Grayson, who is an LNP member, campaign worker and donor, appointed to the TAFE board. We have Michael Hart, a former LNP member of parliament—the only thing you find out if you google his name is that he took a week off state parliament so he could go on a train in the Rocky Mountains—who is now the Chair of the Work Health and Safety Board. We have Chloe Kopilovic, who is an LNP donor and preselection candidate. She was appointed CEO of WorkCover Queensland, and today there is a very disturbing article in the media about her giving prizes to her staff who can close WorkCover cases most quickly.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Bulimba, it would help the House if you returned to the long title of the bill.

Ms FARMER: Our concerns are about not having Governor in Council approval of any appointments to the council. There needs to be a checking mechanism to ensure that the people who are going to be on the council of this extraordinary organisation, which makes such a contribution to Queensland and to the whole world—the people who are literally going to determine the future contribution of this institute—are going to have the skills and experience and are not appointed because they are the mate of someone in the LNP or are an LNP donor. We need to know that they are going to be up to the job. We owe it to Queensland to make sure that that is the case.

Our concern is that ministers right across the cabinet have been appointing their mates with no background whatsoever—with no skills and experience whatsoever—to boards, to incredibly important decision-making bodies. That is why we are so against what is proposed in clause 11. We urge the government to reconsider that clause.

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (3.25 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. The Queensland Institute of Medical Research has been doing important work for over 80 years. It is a proud Queensland organisation that has helped drive health breakthroughs for decades. The way it is governed is now outdated. The current set-up is holding it back from working effectively in a modern world. We need a research institute that is world-class, that can compete globally and that attracts the best people and funding so it can keep doing great work. That is what this bill does: it replaces the old act with a modern, fit-for-purpose structure that strengthens governance, integrity and accountability.

The institute leads the way on some of the biggest health challenges of our time—things like cancer, dementia, heart disease, asthma and mental health. Living in Central Queensland, I know how serious melanoma is. It is something that I have had to deal with myself. The institute has done fantastic

work on the melanoma risk calculator, built from over 40,000 participants. It is a simple online tool that helps people understand their risk and get checked sooner. That is life-saving research. We must make sure the institute can keep doing this kind of work not just now but for the next generation.

The inquiry heard that restrictions on commercial opportunities have made it hard for the institute to earn extra income. Relying on only traditional grants is not sustainable anymore, with success rates as low as 15 per cent. That is why the institute supports these changes. Allowing them to partner with business, license research and create spin-off companies will bring in extra income that can be reinvested into new research, better facilities and attracting top talent.

Attracting and keeping talented people is what keeps the institute strong. Without them it cannot keep producing the world-leading research Queensland is known for. Right now, the institute only allows bonuses for people officially classed as 'discoverers' or 'inventors'. That leaves out others who play a big role in the research. This bill fixes that by letting the institute recognise and reward all contributors through fair incentive payments. These payments will come only from income generated by research, not public funding, so the institute stays accountable and sustainable.

We are also streamlining how the institute's council is appointed. Instead of going through Governor in Council, the minister will make appointments directly. That will mean quicker decisions and less red tape so the council can stay competitive and attract strong members.

New integrity measures will also be added. The minister can request criminal history checks and remove any member who is disqualified from managing corporations. That is good governance and common sense. This bill matters because Queensland is facing big health challenges—an aging population, more cancer cases and more chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease.

In Mirani, medical care is not always easy to access. We have about 30 hospital beds across the electorate and people must often travel to Rockhampton, Mackay or even Brisbane for treatment. For those facing serious illness, the institute's research gives hope that one day better treatment options might be closer to home. A lot of people in my electorate work in the mining industry. We know that miners are at higher risk of chronic lung disease, dust exposure and mental health pressures as a result of long stretches away from home. The institute's work on respiratory and mental health research is incredibly valuable for them and future generations. What drives me is making sure we build a better future for the next generation.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research plays a key role in tackling these challenges. Its scientists are at the forefront of health research, helping develop better treatments, stronger prevention and better outcomes for Queenslanders. We need the institute to stay globally competitive. We are not working in isolation. We are competing for talent with research centres across Australia and around the world. Attracting the best researchers here in Queensland means we can lead the way and ensure Queenslanders benefit from homegrown discoveries. This bill honours the proud 80-year history of Queensland's Institute of Medical Research and gives it the tools it needs to keep operating successfully for decades to come. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.30 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. This bill represents far more than a series of administrative updates. It is about ensuring that one of Queensland's most respected scientific institutes, the Queensland Institute of Medical Research—now known as QIMR Berghofer—remains at the forefront of global medical innovation and discovery. It is about safeguarding the future of medical science in our state and recognising the extraordinary contribution of Queensland researchers to the health and wellbeing of people around the world.

The stated purpose of the bill is to modernise the legislative framework governing QIMR Berghofer so it can attract investment, deliver world-class research and remain globally competitive in an increasingly complex and challenging funding environment. The opposition supports the intent of these amendments. They are sensible reforms designed to value and empower the hardworking scientists, researchers, technicians, collaborators and professional staff who make the institute's success possible, regardless of their formal role description.

Under the current act, bonuses and recognition are limited to employees identified as discoverers or inventors. This outdated approach fails to acknowledge the collaborative nature of modern scientific research. Today's discoveries are rarely made by a single individual. They are the product of teams of biological data scientists, data analysts, clinical coordinators, technicians and administrative professionals all contributing their expertise towards shared scientific goals. By expanding the capacity of the council to reward a broader range of staff who contribute to discoveries or the development of

intellectual property, the bill rightly reflects the reality of 21st century science. It recognises that every contribution matters and that innovation thrives in an environment where all members of the research community are valued.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research is a Queensland success story. For 80 years the Queensland Institute of Medical Research—now QIMR Berghofer—has stood as a beacon of scientific excellence. Founded in 1945, its creation was driven by Dr Edward Derrick, whose groundbreaking work on Q fever and scrub typhus revealed the urgent need for a dedicated medical research institute for northern Australia. From those humble beginnings—just seven staff working out of an ex-military hut in Victoria Park—the Queensland Institute of Medical Research has grown into a globally respected powerhouse of science.

Today QIMR Berghofer employs more than 900 scientists, students and support staff, contributing to some of the most significant medical discoveries of our time. In 1963 its researchers discovered the Ross River virus, a defining moment in Australia's public health history. That changed the global understanding of mosquito-borne diseases. Since then, the institute has become a world authority on malaria, developing new treatments and insecticide strategies to combat drug resistance and improve eradication efforts.

Its cancer research programs have made Queensland a leader in immunotherapy, pioneering treatments that harness the human immune system to fight melanoma and other aggressive cancers. QIMR Berghofer's work in genetics has identified genes linked to asthma, depression and multiple forms of cancer, laying the foundation for personalised medicine tailored to individual patients.

The institute's mental health research has deepened our understanding of the biological and social factors that shape mental illness. By connecting neuroscience with lived experience, QIMR Berghofer has helped to destigmatise mental health challenges and improve access to effective interventions. Let us not forget its role in vaccine development, particularly for diseases like dengue fever, where Queensland research is quite literally saving lives around the world.

QIMR Berghofer's work extends beyond laboratories and into the lives of people and communities. Its collaborations with Indigenous communities have advanced culturally informed research into diseases that disproportionately affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These partnerships ensure that research outcomes are not only scientifically sound but also respectful, relevant and empowering. Through global collaboration, the institute participates in international consortia tackling the biggest challenges in health—from cancer and infectious disease to chronic illness—cementing Queensland's place as a trusted contributor to the world's scientific community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the institute's impact was immediate and profound. It provided genomic sequencing to track the spread of variants, modelled public health responses that informed government policy and contributed to vaccine research and development. These efforts guided decision-making not only in Queensland but across Australia, demonstrating how vital long-term investment in research infrastructure truly is.

QIMR Berghofer's success has been built on a foundation of visionary leadership and extraordinary generosity. The late philanthropist Chuck Feeney's transformative donations of \$20 million in 1997 for the cancer research centre and a further \$27.5 million in 2010 for the new central building provided the infrastructure that modernised the institute. Clive Berghofer's landmark \$50.1 million gift in 2013 took that legacy even further, allowing for expansion, innovation and global recognition. It is a testament to the belief that science, when supported and valued, has the power to change the world.

However, the research environment in 2025 looks very different from that of even a decade ago. Success rates for major grants now fall below 15 per cent, meaning that even outstanding projects often go unfunded. In this landscape, commercialisation is not about profit; it is about sustainability. It is about ensuring that discoveries can be translated into products, treatments and technologies that benefit society while reinvesting returns into research facilities and talent.

The bill explicitly embeds commercialisation as a core function of QIMR Berghofer, and this is a pragmatic and necessary step. It sends a clear signal to researchers, funders and industry partners that Queensland is serious about maximising the social and economic value of its discoveries. It also empowers the institute to attract council members with expertise in intellectual property, technology transfer and industry engagement—skills essential for navigating the global market for medical innovation.

Importantly, these reforms have been widely supported by stakeholders across the health and research sectors. The College of Children and Young People's Nurses emphasised that research must be inclusive, ethical and meaningful—capturing the voices of children and families and engaging vulnerable groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, children in out-of-home care and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. They endorsed the bill's governance structures that balance scientific excellence with social responsibility.

Similarly, the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners welcomed the amendments, particularly the merit-based criteria for council appointments. They recognised that diversity of skills and perspectives—rather than narrow occupational definitions—strengthens decision-making and ensures governance reflects the complex ecosystem in which QIMR Berghofer operates.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (3.40 pm): Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system that responds to the pressures of today and looks to solve the challenges of tomorrow. This bill, the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025, is about doing exactly that.

For nearly 80 years, the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, or QIMR, has been at the heart of scientific discovery and medical innovation in this state. What began in 1945 with just seven staff working out of an ex-military hut in Victoria Park has grown into Queensland's homegrown and globally respected medical research institute, with more than 1,000 scientists, clinicians and students working every day to improve health outcomes for Queenslanders. In Redcliffe, we see the value of this research firsthand. Whether it is through early cancer detection, improved treatments for depression or new approaches to wound healing and infection control, the discoveries made at QIMR touch the lives of our families, our hospitals and our communities.

The bill before the House repeals the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945, replacing it with a modern, fit-for-purpose framework that reflects contemporary governance, integrity and operational standards. The current legislation no longer reflects contemporary governance standards or the modern medical research environment. In today's fast-paced, global research landscape, our institutions need agility—the ability to recruit swiftly, to collaborate freely and to maintain the highest standards of transparency. These reforms will ensure that QIMR remains well-governed, competitive and able to focus on high-quality research that improves health outcomes for all Queenslanders and strengthens our state's reputation as a leader in medical research.

The bill introduces stronger integrity and governance provisions—similar to those found in the Hospital Foundations Act 2018—requiring the council to notify the minister of any concerns about QIMR's financial position or management, and ensuring appropriate criminal history checks for all council members. These measures promote transparency and public confidence in QIMR's governance. That is what Queenslanders expect, and it is what this government is delivering—clear oversight, without red tape.

As a member of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, we had the wonderful opportunity to visit QIMR earlier this year and see firsthand some of the incredible, world-class research being conducted at their sophisticated laboratories in Herston. I was very impressed with the calibre of professionals working there and the cutting-edge technology used to conduct health research that is world leading.

At the heart of QIMR's success is collaboration. This bill reminds us that research breakthroughs are rarely achieved by one person working alone, yet under the old act only those classed as 'discoverers' or 'inventors' could receive bonuses for commercialised research—leaving out many valuable contributors. This bill changes that by introducing commercialised incentive payments, broadening eligibility so that a wider range of researchers, collaborators and innovators can be recognised and rewarded. This reform will support QIMR in its ability to attract and retain leading talent and encourage research that improves health outcomes. That is not just good for scientists in the lab; it is good for every Queenslanders who benefits from their discoveries.

Good governance starts with good leadership. Currently, all QIMR council appointments must go through the Governor in Council, which can delay appointments and hinder responsiveness. This bill transfers that responsibility to the health minister, ensuring decisions are made swiftly and transparently. QIMR itself supported this reform, saying that it 'brings several important benefits for the institute's governance and operational effectiveness'. This bill will also allow for the appointment of an acting director to ensure continuity during leadership transitions. These are commonsense reforms that make the institution stronger, more agile and more accountable.

The bill also clarifies QIMR's ability to manage gifts, bequests and donations. QIMR's research is supported not just by government funding but also through millions in donations, generous bequests and philanthropic support generously contributed by the Queensland community.

In electorates like mine in Redcliffe, where our community is known for its generosity and local fundraising efforts, this reform is particularly meaningful. It ensures that when Queenslanders give to medical research—whether through a bequest, a local fundraiser or a community event—their contributions are used effectively and responsibly.

The impact of QIMR's research is felt in Redcliffe. Take skin cancer, for example—an issue close to home for many Queenslanders. QIMR's melanoma risk calculator has already helped nearly 80,000 Australians better understand their personal risk and encourage early detection. In coastal communities like mine in Redcliffe, where weekends are spent in the water, sun safety is a daily conversation and this research quite literally saves lives. We could also consider QIMR's TMS trial for depression, which achieved a 52 per cent response rate. This is a breakthrough in treating one of our most widespread mental health challenges. For families in Redcliffe and right across Queensland, where access to mental health services is vital, these advancements through research bring real hope and relief.

Who could overlook the discovery that enhances the natural healing power of vinegar with nanoparticles—a Queensland-led innovation that can help prevent antibiotic-resistant infections. As a registered nurse who has worked across hospitals, this is life changing and life saving. For our elderly residents and those managing chronic wounds, that is not just research in a lab; that is innovation that protects lives and dignity. Every one of these breakthroughs—every new therapy, every tool for prevention—has its roots in an environment where research can thrive. That is what this bill will ensure: that QIMR can continue to lead the world in discovery while being governed with transparency.

In Redcliffe we know how closely health and community are intertwined. When our hospitals, clinics and researchers have the right support, we all benefit. Our Redcliffe Hospital, for example, partners with researchers and clinicians across Queensland, including through programs inspired by QIMR's Clinician Researcher Academy. It is about bridging research and frontline care so patients can receive the best evidence-based treatments faster.

In closing, as QIMR celebrates its 80th anniversary, we recognise a Queensland institution that has not only stood the test of time but continues to push boundaries of what is possible in science and medicine. The bill gives QIMR the legislative support it needs to continue its vital work. I would like to join the Minister for Health, Tim Nicholls, in thanking all of the researchers, innovators, inventors and support staff whose dedication has made Queensland a global leader in medical research.

This bill reflects our government's commitment to reforming outdated legislation, strengthening integrity, rewarding innovation and supporting science that saves lives. It is about preparing Queensland and communities, like mine in Redcliffe, for the health challenges of tomorrow. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (3.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. It would be remiss of me not to highlight those comments made by the member for Redcliffe, particularly in relation to the seriousness of skin cancer, which we know affects more Queenslanders than people from anywhere else in the world. I hope—and I am sure—the member for Redcliffe has raised with the health minister the cuts he made to the Queensland Cancer Council recently. As is the case with measles, it is our young people who will be the victims of skin cancer in time to come—young people and those most vulnerable, who rely on governments to protect them and to support them. This is yet another example of where the LNP government have failed our young people.

The Labor opposition is incredibly proud of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research and the work produced by the hardworking scientists, pioneers, inventors and collaborators of the institute and, of course, the QIMR council. The work of the QIMR is groundbreaking and life-changing, as many others in the House have spoken about. The institute is internationally recognised for its work and the changes it has made to the face of medicine and public health. The opposition supports the majority of this bill, but we do have some concerns surrounding the appointment process. It should come as no surprise that we have concerns around the appointment process given what we have witnessed happen with the appointment—or lack of appointment—of the CHO. However, I would first like to focus on the positives in this bill.

The importance of the work of the QIMR cannot be understated. Thanks to their work, we have life-changing immunotherapy research, the discovery of the Ross River virus in 1963, important research into melanomas and skin cancer prevention, and the discovery of the gene responsible for

haemochromatosis. Of course, they also played a vital role in supporting the Queensland Labor government's COVID-19 public health response. It is these examples that demonstrate why the Labor opposition supports the amendments in this bill which will appropriately value the hardworking and dedicated scientists, researchers, collaborators and workers at QIMR, regardless of their role description. At this point in time, only roles defined as 'discoverer' or 'inventor' can receive bonuses, but we know that modern science research is deeply and increasingly a collaborative effort, a team effort, that involves a variety of skill sets, roles and expertise.

The bill expands on the defined roles to allow the council to recognise and reward the wide range of employees who contribute to scientific discoveries and/or the development of intellectual property. This provides a fairer and more equitable method for the payment of incentives, thus delivering the most Australian of values—that is, a fair go for all. The Labor opposition also welcomes the openness and transparency created by the requirements for the council to immediately notify the minister on matters that raise significant concerns. Additionally, we also welcome the clarifications around dealing with gifts, the declaration of personal interests, and providing increased administrative flexibility and responsiveness for the council to manage issues that arise at the institute. We also support this bill that will modernise legislation for the institute which more accurately reflects the modern scale, function and role it plays in Queensland and on the international stage within the health sector.

However, while there are a great many positives in this bill, the Labor opposition has some concerns, as I mentioned earlier. These concerns specifically surround the changes to the appointment process which removes the Governor in Council oversight of the council of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. The Labor opposition believes that the removal of this process brings the integrity and transparency surrounding council appointments into question. To be quite blunt and frank, it really is about trust and integrity. It is about the fact that this opposition does not trust the government to act with integrity and with honesty in making appointments. I think there is enough evidence to demonstrate why we have a concern in relation to this. We already know that the LNP has a record of doing 'jobs for mates' recruitment drives. We have seen it since the election on 26 October 2024. We have seen copious numbers—

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is not pertinent to the long title of the bill or the actual contents of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Mansfield, I would caution you about going into some things that perhaps are not covered by the title of this bill, even though you have some room for rebuttal of issues that have been raised previously in debate.

Ms McMILLAN: The Labor opposition will not simply stand by and allow this to happen. Any role in any circumstance must go to the best qualified person for the job. When this happens, the people of Queensland prosper under a Public Service that hires the best of the best workers to serve them.

In conclusion, the Labor opposition supports this bill. The changes are necessary and fairly award our hardworking professionals at QIMR as well as increase the transparency measures for the council and modernise the legislation around the institute. However, we will continue to hold the Crisafulli LNP government to account. The LNP cannot be allowed to go on a 'jobs for mates' recruitment drive for the Queensland Institute of Medical Research council.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Nicklin. That was uncalled for.

Ms McMILLAN: I will say that when I do a simple Google search and I look through the board members who take on those roles on QIMR they are highly qualified and they are significant leaders in the medical field. It would look very strange if one of the 'mates' appeared amongst that list of QIMR board members. The Labor opposition will work hard to ensure the government hires people who are best suited for the roles on this council and we will continue to hold the LNP to account.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.58 pm): I rise to speak to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. Recently the health minister, the Hon. Tim Nicholls, and I hosted the 50-year anniversary of the Australian Leukaemia Foundation. This is a cause close to my heart, and I commend the Fraser Coast leukaemia volunteers for their tireless work over many years in raising funds through Shave for a Cure and Light the Night. Each day, 55 Australians are diagnosed with leukaemia or a blood related cancer. That is one Australian every 26 minutes. Sadly, 17 Australians are lost to this pernicious disease each day. The Leukaemia Foundation's research road map is a commitment to address the urgent and complex challenges posed by blood cancer in Australia. They have an aspirational quest for zero preventable blood cancer deaths by 2035.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research, QIMR, has a long history in blood cancer research, producing groundbreaking treatments that have transformed the way all cancers are treated. QIMR pioneered the first ever trial offering DNA sequencing of people with blood cancer to match them with new and effective treatment. QIMR has also delivered cutting-edge CAR T cell therapies to people with blood cancer. CAR T therapy is a form of immunotherapy that re-engineers a patient's own T cells. In my Hervey Bay electorate the Cancer Care Centre, GenesisCare and the Forbes Cancer Care Centre at St Stephen's Hospital provide first-class cancer care and treatment.

This crucial bill provides for contemporary governance systems and processes and best practice in public governance. QIMR is a Queensland statutory body and world-leading medical research facility. It has over 1,000 scientists, staff and students who research hundreds of diseases and conditions in 60 specialised laboratories. It is managed and controlled by a council. The institute was established in 1945 under the QIMR Act for the purpose of initiating and conducting research across many branches of medical science, with a particular focus on diseases of significance in North Queensland. It celebrates its 80th birthday in November. It was originally intended to conduct research into tropical diseases in North Queensland. However, QIMR now conducts research into areas such as cancers, infectious diseases, mental health, chronic disease and genetics. According to the 2025 annual report—

Some of the world's most prestigious journals featured QIMR Berghofer's work ... including:

...

- *British Journal of Dermatology*
- *Journal of Hepatology*
- *Lancet Infectious Diseases*
- *Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology*
- *Molecular Cancer*

...

- *New England Journal of Medicine*

These published papers added to scientific knowledge on a range of topics such as scabies, liver cirrhosis, vitamin D supplementation, malaria, multiple sclerosis, childhood cancer, endometrial cancer, ovarian cancer ...

The QIMR Act has been significantly amended throughout its 80-year history and it no longer meets the contemporary expectations of governance. The existing act fails to provide for contemporary governance standards for the council, including clearly defined functions, management of conflicts of interest, membership requirements and integrity standards. This bill will address these matters by repealing and replacing the outdated Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 with a contemporary and fit-for-purpose legislative framework for the QIMR to continue its world-class medical research.

Good governance begins and ends with strong and decisive leadership. Clause 11 of this bill provides for the swift and timely appointment process of council members. It is about allowing the council to remain competitive in attracting high-calibre members and keeping abreast with non-government research organisations. Strong governance is integral to public trust and confidence. To this end, the bill transfers the responsibility for council appointments to the health minister, enabling judicious appointments without compromising the rigour, integrity and transparency in the appointment process.

Predictably, Labor's statement of reservation demonstrates short-term political thinking. Labor opposes the clause 11 amendments which are ultimately directed at improving transparency and accountability. This is a desperate Labor opposition that will say and do anything to curtail best practice governance. Queenslanders know that Labor has a deplorable track record when it comes to contemporary best practice public sector governance. Remember the Coaldrake report into the culture and accountability of the Public Service under Labor. Remember the DNA laboratory debacle. Remember the alleged cover-up of Dr Sean Brady's forensic inquiry into the Callide coal-fired power station. Labor spent 10 years asleep at the wheel—

Mr McCALLUM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The speaker has strayed well outside the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Thank you very much. I was listening, and I have not finished yet, member for Hervey Bay. I appreciate what you are saying but, as I said to the member for Mansfield earlier, please ensure that what you are talking about does adhere to the long title of the bill. Please continue.

Mr LEE: It relates to clause 11, Mr Deputy Speaker. Labor spent 10 years asleep at the wheel and now it pretends to care—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay, take your seat. Member for Hervey Bay, I had given you instruction on what to do there, so thank you for considering that. You did not need to reply to that. You may now resume.

Mr LEE: I now turn to the conflict-of-interest provisions. The act currently does not provide for conflict-of-interest procedures for council meetings. To promote integrity and transparency, this bill provides for disclosures of material personal interests in matters to be considered by the council that could reasonably conflict with the performance of their duties. In such circumstances, where the member makes a disclosure they can participate in the meeting but not vote on the matter. In circumstances where there is no disclosure by a member, this does not invalidate the ultimate decision of the council.

This bill also provides for commercialised incentive payments by reforming the arrangements in relation to commercialised incentive payments to researchers and provides for greater flexibility for QIMR to reward its researchers in a timely and equitable manner whilst retaining Governor in Council approval for extraordinary and high-value payments. Recognising commercialisation translates research into real world health and economic outcomes by encouraging world-class research through financial incentivisation. QIMR has said that commercialisation 'helps bridge funding gaps but also enables the Institute to reinvest in new research, infrastructure, and talent'.

In relation to gifts and donations, according to its 2025 annual report, QIMR received more than \$18 million in donations and bequests. This bill clarifies the council's authority to deal with gifts consistent with financial legislation and best practice. This reform provides QIMR greater flexibility to use community support effectively and responsibly.

In closing, I thank the dedicated researchers, inventors, donors and support staff for their extraordinary contribution to medical science and population health. It is these outstanding contributions that put Queensland as a global leader in medical research. I commend the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill to the House.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.06 pm): I begin my contribution by acknowledging the incredible work that has occurred and still occurs at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. The Labor opposition is full-throated in our support of the life-changing medical research that happens at QIMR. It really does make a direct, positive difference in the lives of people in all 93 electorates of this parliament, and that needs to be acknowledged. I am proud to place that on the record on behalf of the Bundamba community, where the medical research that has occurred at QIMR has helped so many people in so many ways in our community.

As many speakers from the opposition have said, we support the majority of the content and reform that is contained in this bill. The current act is a pretty old piece of legislation, having been around since 1945. It has certainly been amended many times over those 80 years, so having a more bespoke and updated act is more appropriate. Having said that, as many other speakers from Labor have signalled, we do hold some concerns around clause 11 and the removal of Governor in Council oversight of the appointment of members to the QIMR council, but I will come back to that a little bit later.

We certainly support efforts to modernise the legal and governance framework around QIMR. Their work and their legacy are really incredible, from immunotherapy research—speakers have referenced the discovery of Ross River virus—to important research into melanomas and skin cancer prevention. I want to place on record my concern with the funding cut of over \$2 million by the Crisafulli government to public skin cancer research. QIMR undertook the QSkin study and laid the groundwork for what is an important public health matter here in Queensland. To have over \$2 million cut from public skin cancer funding and prevention programs is shameful.

I note that QIMR has been responsible for the discovery of the gene responsible for haemochromatosis and, of course, QIMR supported some of the public health strategy response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Who could forget that during the COVID pandemic the then LNP opposition, under the leadership of the member for Nanango, called for our borders to be opened?

Mr LEE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): The member has just started speaking about this. I am listening carefully. I will allow him to go on at this point.

Mr McCALLUM: For the benefit of the members on the other side of the House, as I was saying: QIMR were proud to provide research and their expertise into the public health response for COVID-19, during the time that the LNP wanted to open our borders prematurely and let that virus rip.

Government members interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: They do not like it!

I turn to the issues around clause 11 and the council appointment process. We do not support the removal of Governor in Council oversight of the appointments to the QIMR council. We believe that the removal of Governor in Council oversight jeopardises the integrity and transparency of the appointments. We have heard previous speakers from the government talk about the governance framework that is contained in this bill, citing that there will be improved governance, accountability and transparency arrangements. That is not true, in my opinion. In fact, how can you say that there will be more accountability and transparency when you are removing Governor in Council oversight? It does not make sense.

The minister and the government have not made the case as to why Governor in Council oversight should be removed when that is the usual process. If that is the threshold that is normally applied to these kinds of appointments, why is it being taken away in this case? There has been no explanation from the government. I hope that the minister will put on record why the government is deciding to remove Governor in Council oversight. It is not enough for government speakers to stand up like lemmings in this debate and running their lines, saying that it will improve governance and accountability when it clearly will not.

There is a lot to be worried about. We know that this government has form for making appointments that are political in nature. After this bill passes—as it undoubtedly will, because the government will use its numbers—who is to say that it will not be the former member for Burleigh who is appointed to the QIMR council? He has already been appointed to an energy GOC and to Work Health and Safety. Maybe he will be on the QIMR council. Maybe an ex-federal LNP politician will be appointed.

Mr JANETZKI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance again. There have been various contributions to the House with respect to board appointments. They have previously been ruled out of line and I ask that the member be brought back to those matters that are relevant to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am looking at the explanatory notes. We see on page 3 that ‘the Bill shifts responsibility for Council appointments and removals from the Governor in Council to the Minister’ and the appointment process ‘provides that Council member remuneration and allowances will be determined by the Minister, rather than the Governor in Council’. What we are talking about is the appointment process by the minister. This is actually in the greens. I would ask people to keep their comments to that appointment process. If people do go outside of relevance, I am sure they will be pulled up. I want to point out that this is in the explanatory notes. I call the member to resume.

Mr McCALLUM: This government’s form when it comes to these kinds of appointments is absolutely terrible. Look at the appointment process for the Chief Health Officer. That has been an absolute debacle that has embroiled this health minister, who is responsible for bringing this bill to the House.

When we look at proposed section 11(2)(a) we see reference to corporate governance; public or academic administration; health or clinical research; health ethics; financial management; and fundraising. With the form that this mob have, they will be appointing another LNP donor. Fundraising experience seems to lead to an appointment by this government to important positions of leadership in public organisations in Queensland.

I will finish my contribution around the issue of commercialisation. It is a competitive environment that these medical research organisations compete in. I say to the government: rather than commercialising the research that could be put to public benefit and be available to everyone, fund QIMR properly. Increase their funding. Do not use this as a wedge for more privatisation of our healthcare services. Do not use this as cover for putting more of your LNP mates on government boards. There is no law that this government will not stoop to. That is why it cut over \$2 million from skin cancer research.



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (4.18 pm): In rising to participate in the debate on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025, I would like to address the repeal and replacement of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 to introduce new governance, procedural and operational frameworks as well as to remove redundant provisions. The current act no longer meets the legislative expectations or the governance standards appropriate for the institute in the 21st century. Effective legislation is essential to safeguard the operation and the future success of the institute.

As the Minister for Science and Innovation I cannot begin to tell you how important it is that QIMR is driving our state's research capability. This bill will support the institute's ability to attract funding, deliver impactful research and remain competitive in the medical research sector. The objectives of the bill are to strengthen governance, accountability and transparency, facilitate agile decision-making through delegation powers, support commercialisation of research outcomes and ensure financial and operational sustainability.

At this moment I would like to reflect on the contribution of the member who spoke earlier. The importance of commercialisation is not just about revenue raising for QIMR or supplementing other forms of funding; it is about ensuring that we allow the research that is formulated here in this state to stay in this state through commercial opportunities. It is not just about the money; it is about attracting the best and the brightest and ensuring that they stay here in this great state. Successfully commercialising research outcomes is crucial for ensuring long-term sustainability and maximising impact. Commercialisation offers diverse revenue opportunities, including licensing, partnerships, royalties and the establishment of spin-off companies. These efforts not only address funding shortfalls, as I said, but also allow the institute to reinvest in cutting-edge research infrastructure and that skilled personnel that we so desperately want to retain.

The purpose of QIMR Berghofer is to deliver better health and wellbeing through impactful medical research. The researchers at QIMR drive advances in the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of some of the world's most deadly and debilitating diseases and conditions. Throughout its 80-year history QIMR Berghofer has delivered impactful research to advance Queensland's understanding of pressing medical and public health challenges, including way back in 1986 proving that regular sunscreen use reduces the risk of skin cancers. That is why we have been applying it ever since. It was also impactful in identifying a causal link between Epstein-Barr virus and lymphoma, as well as some forms of leukaemia, and in 1963 it discovered the Ross River virus.

Queensland needs leading research institutes to translate cutting-edge research and advances in medicine, including clinical trials, into profitable commercial ventures. Institutes such as QIMR Berghofer attract investment and talent to Queensland and boost innovation through collaboration. They are a key part of Queensland's innovation ecosystem. They connect researchers, businesses, industries, investors and communities.

An important collaboration led out of the University of Queensland in which QIMR Berghofer is a partner is the Solutions for Manufacturing Advanced Regenerative Therapies Cooperative Research Centre or, far easier to say, SMART CRC. SMART CRC represents a groundbreaking initiative for Australia and beyond, embodying a decade-long vision to revolutionise health care. Hosted at UQ, this industry-led research-intensive consortium has secured \$238 million in combined government and partner funding, bringing together 63 partners, including biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, universities, medical research institutes and government organisations. The mission of SMART CRC is to accelerate the development, manufacturing and clinical adoption of regenerative therapies. The benefits are profound: improved access to next generation therapies for Australian patients, reduced reliance on overseas manufacturing, enhanced sovereign capability, skilled job creation and significant economic returns. I am pleased to say that the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation has committed \$750,000 to this initiative.

QIMR Berghofer also has a proud history of engaging Queenslanders in science. The 'Skin deep science' project, supported by a Queensland government Engaging Science grant, has brought hands-on education to Cloncurry State School and hosted public forums to raise awareness about parasitic skin conditions impacting remote Queensland towns, in particular Indigenous communities. These efforts not only inform but also inspire the next generation of scientists.

In National Science Week I had the privilege of visiting QIMR Berghofer and hearing directly from Dr Katja Fischer, group leader of the scabies research group, as we announced the Crisafulli government's Engaging Science Grants. Touring Dr Fischer's lab I witnessed the next generation of medical scientists in action gaining invaluable hands-on experience. It was a powerful reminder of the

role science plays in shaping healthier, more informed communities. It was even better to be joined by students from Cloncurry State School who travelled across Queensland to be inspired by seeing cutting-edge science firsthand.

QIMR represents the very best of Queensland's science and innovation capability. It is where our brightest minds solve complex problems for our future and distil complex science into solutions that make the lives of all Queenslanders healthier and longer. By shoring up QIMR's governance arrangements and making its legislative framework fit for purpose, the Crisafulli government is helping set our scientists up for success. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (4.25 pm): I start by singing the praises of QIMR, which is located in my electorate. I have had the pleasure of visiting that facility on many occasions. They have a fantastic building in Herston in the hospital precinct and, as everyone has said, they have done outstanding work in their 80 years of research and development. I think every Queensland—every Australian—would thank them for the work they did during COVID, which was second to none.

I also sing the praises of the chair, Professor Arun Sharma AM. Every time I meet Professor Sharma I am impressed with his knowledge, his expertise, his professionalism and the manner in which he conducts himself. He is an absolute icon in this area not only in Queensland but also in Australia and, I would say, around the world. We are extremely lucky to have him here in Queensland overseeing the board. Congratulations also to those board members and directors who do an excellent job. I take my hat off to Professor Sharma. He is truly an icon at the QIMR. On numerous occasions I have also had the opportunity to meet director and CEO Professor Fabienne Mackay. Her professionalism and the manner in which she applies herself to this leading research organisation in Queensland is also second to none. She has a great team around her.

While we do have concerns in relation to some areas of this bill, we support those changes that ensure that QIMR goes from strength to strength. In this new world of AI and the way technology is changing, this bill gives them the tools to be around for not only the next 80 years but the next 100 years. Their latest annual report states that in 2024-25 some of the world's most prestigious journals featured the work of QIMR, a research organisation here in Queensland. Prestigious journals around the world, such as the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Nature Genetics*, *Nature*, *Molecular Cancer* and *Blood*, are featuring work by QIMR. These published papers added to the scientific knowledge on a range of topics.

We have talked about what they have done in the past with Ross River fever, skin cancer prevention and the public health strategy in COVID-19. I was a minister during that difficult time and QIMR was so helpful in managing that. They have conducted research into a range of topics such as scabies and liver cirrhosis. They are doing some great work on vitamin D supplements. I am low in vitamin D; I do not know why. Maybe I am not out in the sun enough. I take a supplement once a week because low vitamin D can cause severe medical conditions.

They have also done great work in malaria and multiple sclerosis. My brother-in-law has MS. Steven is the youngest in the Grace family. I wish him the best. We love him very much. He has been hospitalised of late due to his complete immobility because of that terrible disease. It is so sad. He is still very young.

Mrs Frecklington: It is such a sad disease.

Ms GRACE: I take that interjection from the Attorney-General. It is so sad to see a young man deteriorating. At the moment he cannot leave hospital. They are looking for long-term supported accommodation for him in Tasmania. Tasmania has a large number of people with MS per head of population. Steven suffers badly. The institute's work around MS apparently is second to none in the world. Let us hope we have a breakthrough in that absolutely debilitating illness.

We hear more and more about childhood cancer, which is really concerning, as well as ovarian cancer. Some of the work they are doing is second to none. We have no problem with recognising people with skills. I think it will be a good way to reimburse those people and it is a great way to attract people through the incentives in this legislation. The world has changed. As we discover new things, an incredible amount of money can be made. Obviously, we need legislation that can put a positive focus on assisting the dedicated scientists, researchers, collaborators and workers at the QIMR. Regardless of their description, they can all be part of a legislated incentive process.

We do have concerns about the appointment process. I do not know why you would want to remove the Governor in Council from the appointment process. Yes, it is an added step, but I think it is a very important step when we are talking about world-class research. Having a director appointed through the Governor in Council means that, if you have issues that you want to raise, there are

protections that are not there when it is done at the whim of the minister. We have grave concerns because we have seen the track record of those opposite so far. Interestingly, when in opposition they complained bitterly about appointment processes and now we see the hypocrisy in the manner in which they are appointing LNP mates, donors and aligned people to various boards. I think there are over 50 now and counting. This has been reported in the media. We are concerned that appointments will not be made through the added path of the Governor in Council.

Government members interjected.

Ms GRACE: They are all interjecting because they do not like it. Their hypocrisy in this House is huge. When in opposition, they complained the whole time. At that time the Premier said that people should not be appointed if they are politically aligned, and they have thrown that out. Not only that: when making appointments they announce them at the most inappropriate of times. It is called 'taking out the trash'. They make those announcements at a time when no scrutiny is applied to those opposite, so forgive us if we are a little concerned about giving the minister the power to make these appointments.

The integrity, the professionalism and the peer scrutiny that goes on at QIMR is second to none, but there have been issues with some research. If a director feels that they need to say something then the protection of the Governor in Council is very important. To take that away and put it in the hands of the minister, who may not be happy with someone speaking out, I think is a step in the wrong direction when it comes to accountability and integrity. The committee commented—

... there is no explicit opportunity for individuals to make a submission in relation to a decision to disqualify them or otherwise end their appointment ...

The legislation does not provide a director with the ability to question a disqualification. The committee made that comment. It is noted in the report. I ask the minister: is there an intention for these provisions to ensure the integrity and operational effectiveness of the institute? The committee further stated—

The Minister may wish to consider the merit of introducing amendments to provide a process for Council members to make a submission in relation to a decision to disqualify them or end their appointment.

There is no right of appeal. This will be fully in the hands of the minister and we have grave concerns about that. Look at what happened with the debacle around the appointment of the Chief Health Officer. We do not trust those opposite. They have demonstrated that they cannot be trusted. If you are not an LNP member or donor then you will not get a look-in here. This is very concerning. I hope the minister addresses our concerns around the ability for a director to make a submission if they are disqualified.



Miss DOOLAN (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.35 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. This bill is about strengthening one of Queensland's most respected scientific institutions and ensuring it remains at the cutting edge of medical discovery. For nearly 80 years, the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, QIMR, has been a cornerstone of our health and research community. It began in 1945 with just seven staff working in a small hut at Victoria Park. Today it is home to around 1,000 scientists, clinicians, students and support staff. Its researchers are world leaders in cancer research, infectious disease control, mental health, genetics and population health. Later this year QIMR will celebrate its 80th anniversary, marking eight decades of service to science, medicine and the people of Queensland.

The current legislation that governs QIMR was written in 1945. While it has served us well, it no longer reflects the modern standards of governance or the realities of contemporary medical research. The bill before the House repeals the old act and replaces it with a modern and practical framework that supports integrity, transparency and good governance. It allows QIMR to continue competing globally for talent, funding and partnerships while remaining accountable to government and the public.

The bill updates the way QIMR can recognise and reward its researchers through commercialised incentive payments under the current act. Bonuses can only be paid to those formally recognised as inventors, which leaves out many others who play important roles in developing new discoveries. The new framework allows QIMR to recognise all contributors who help bring new ideas to life. It sets sensible caps of \$10 million per item of intellectual property and \$5 million per person per financial year, with appropriate oversight for larger payments. This approach is fair, is more flexible and better reflects how modern research works.

The bill also modernises governance arrangements. It transfers responsibility for appointing council members from the Governor in Council to the Minister for Health, which will allow timely appointments while maintaining integrity checks. It provides for an acting director to be appointed for up to six months, ensuring continuity of leadership when needed. Strong governance means QIMR can focus on what it does best: delivering research that saves and improves lives.

There are also important integrity measures in the bill. It introduces criminal history disclosure requirements for council members and ensures any significant concerns about the institute's administration or financial position must be reported to the minister. It clarifies how QIMR can manage gifts, bequests and donations so that community contributions can be used effectively and responsibly. These updates bring QIMR in line with other modern Queensland health legislation and ensures public confidence in its operations.

The work of QIMR has a direct impact on the lives of Queenslanders. Its researchers have helped to develop new cancer therapies, improved understanding of mental health and identified genetic markers for serious disease. One of QIMR's recent studies revealed key genetic differences in how depression affects males and females, paving the way for more targeted and effective treatments. Another partnership between QIMR and Kazia Therapeutics has led to a promising new drug to treat metastatic breast cancer, now progressing through clinical trials internationally. These are real achievements that give real hope to patients and families.

As QIMR marks its 80th year, this bill ensures it has the right legislative foundation to continue its vital work well into the future. It reflects the Crisafulli government's commitment to supporting world-class medical research, good governance and the health of all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.



Dr O'SHEA (South Brisbane—ALP) (4.39 pm): I rise today to address the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. In addressing this bill, I would like to first acknowledge the work of the Primary Industries and Resources Committee, the submitters who provided contributions and the hard work of the secretariat in supporting the committee in its review of this proposed legislation. This bill repeals and replaces the 80-year-old Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 to introduce new governance and operational frameworks and remove redundant provisions in the act.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research, QIMR, was established in 1945 to conduct research with a focus on diseases of significance to Queensland. As the member for Bulimba mentioned, Tom Foley, the Queensland state secretary for health in 1945, pointed out the risks research workers at that time subjected themselves to in order to advance medical knowledge including infecting themselves with a virus to study its effects and therefore risking their lives. Referring to those researchers, Tom Foley went on to say—

We must see that they are well paid and that they have the necessary facilities to carry out their work.

Those words are as true today as they were 80 years ago.

As a number of speakers have mentioned, QIMR started out as seven staff working out of a disused World War II US Army hut in Victoria Park. Over the years it has grown to over 1,000 scientists, staff and students researching hundreds of diseases and conditions. In the past 80 years, the institute has researched a wide variety of diseases. Researchers have worked on malaria control, collected mosquitoes from the Ross River near Townsville and discovered a virus that caused painful joints and muscles, fatigue and fevers. This virus was subsequently named the Ross River virus.

QIMR also established the link between viruses and certain blood cancers like lymphoma and leukaemia, the genetic basis of some breast cancers, how sunscreen prevented certain skin cancers and has done leading-edge research on cellular therapies where living cells are given to the patient to use the power of the body's immune system to fight disease. In fact, QIMR was the first manufacturing facility in Australia to receive Therapeutic Goods Administration approval for manufacturing cellular therapies for human use. Researchers at the institute also worked on drugs to prevent and treat COVID-19 in the recent pandemic.

QIMR is recognised internationally for its groundbreaking research which has not only improved the health of Queenslanders but also had profound effects on the lives of people around the world. Thanks to the generosity of philanthropists Clive Berghofer and Chuck Feeney and the support of the state and federal governments, the institute now occupies 60 specialised laboratories in the Herston Health Precinct in Brisbane. The Health, Environment and Innovation Committee was invited earlier this year to attend QIMR and we had the pleasure of meeting director and CEO Professor Fabienne Mackay and her staff and touring the institute's impressive facilities.

The institute's research work continues today with a focus on cancer, malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases, mental health conditions including schizophrenia and dementia and chronic diseases such as liver disease and asthma. QIMR is a clear testament to what public funding into medical research can accomplish.

The QIMR Act 1945 is an 80-year-old piece of legislation and has become outdated. This bill aims to modernise legislation, increase transparency and integrity for the managing council, support commercialisation of intellectual property and provide fairer incentive payments to enable QIMR to remain competitive in the international medical research sector. In their submission to the committee, QIMR endorsed the bill's aim to support the commercialisation of intellectual property. It noted that it is a constant struggle to find money to attract the world's top scientists and give them an environment to work. The institute stated that commercialisation helps bridge funding gaps and enables QIMR to reinvest in new research, infrastructure and talent.

Another important aspect of this bill is the provision for fairer and more equitable commercialised bonuses. Under the current legislation, incentive payments can only be paid to employees of QIMR. This bill would ensure that any individual who contributed to the development of intellectual property, whether they are an employee of the institute or not, is recognised and rewarded.

This bill increases transparency for QIMR by requiring the council to immediately notify the minister of matters that significantly affect the financial viability, administration or management of the institute or council. The new proposed legislation also contains clarifications surrounding dealing with gifts and bequests to the institute and declarations of personal interest by council members.

The Labor opposition supports the majority of the changes proposed by this bill. However, we do not support the removal of Governor in Council oversight of appointments to the council of QIMR. We believe allowing the minister to appoint and remove council members without Governor in Council oversight jeopardises the integrity and transparency of appointments to the council.

Medicine is a continually evolving field requiring ongoing research to ensure Queenslanders have the best opportunity to lead long and healthy lives. Medical professionals in my electorate of South Brisbane and across the state rely on innovations developed by organisations such as QIMR to provide better health outcomes for Queenslanders.

I would like to thank all the scientists, researchers, staff and students at the institute for their hard work and dedication to improving the lives of Queenslanders. We all owe so much to medical researchers and we need to ensure that institutions like the Queensland Institute of Medical Research receive the funding and facilities they require to continue their life-changing work.

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (4.48 pm): I rise today to speak on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. Over time need arises within an ever-changing world to pay particular attention to legislation, processes and systems to ensure that measures of protection and intention of delivery are up to date with the modern environment for which they are purposed. This bill addresses a number of reforms in replacing the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 with the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. Reforms in this bill will improve functionality, governance and continuity throughout staffing transitions for QIMR.

The current act no longer meets the legislative expectations or the governance standards appropriate for a modern, world-class research institution, especially one of QIMR's size and complexity. This is an institute that is home to approximately 1,000 scientists, support staff and students. It is recognised the world over for phenomenal and groundbreaking research across multiple medical conditions that provide better health outcomes for people not only in Queensland but also right across the world. The Crisafulli government are committed to providing better healthcare outcomes for all Queenslanders. By improving the administration, the governance and the integrity of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, this bill goes towards that and the flow-on benefits will indeed be felt right across the world.

I would like to thank those 1,000 scientists, students and support staff at the QIMR for the incredible work that they do. Research breakthroughs come through the sharing of ideas and much collaboration. The current act only permits bonuses for employees who are classified as discoverers or inventors. This actually includes many more people, including collaborators who bring significant contribution towards the institution's work. This bill is looking to clearly define functions and membership requirements and the integrity safeguards through reforms to achieve better functionality within the QIMR that is fit for purpose. This bill replaces the word 'bonuses' with 'commercialised incentive payments' and broadens the eligibility criteria. The broadened criteria will ensure that rewards go to a more comprehensive range of research contributors.

It is important to note that the QIMR is supportive of changes proposed within this bill, including those that refine the size of QIMR council member caps to a more manageable membership number. This will promote more focused and efficient decision-making. We cannot expect our professionals to continue this great work under an outdated act. We need to unlock legislation that releases QIMR to continue to deliver the excellent research that they have become renowned for.

I would like to speak to the significance of the work that QIMR does. They work in the space of cancer research, brain research and chronic diseases such as haemochromatosis, which some of the opposition have mentioned. I bring this up because my family are impacted by this chronic disease. Indeed, my husband was diagnosed with haemochromatosis a number of years ago. We were unaware of the consequences of this and how it would affect our lifestyle. The research the QIMR does can help people right across our country to discover how they can better approach their health needs. I thank them for a world-first initiative in designing, collecting and analysing data on patients with haemochromatosis.

The right foundations are what we are seeing through the delivery of this bill—foundations that will progress, promote and provide better health outcomes for the people across Queensland, Australia and, indeed, the world. I would like to extend my congratulations to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research on 80 years of delivering this world-class research and development. We look forward to seeing what it is that they bring to the table in the coming years, the next decade and from there on and the impact that will have on community members, one by one. I thank the Minister for Health for bringing the bill before the House. I commend the bill.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (4.53 pm): I rise to give my contribution on this bill. In doing so, I thank the committee of which I am a member, but I was not there for a public hearing so I thank the member for Logan for filling in on that particular occasion. Like all members of this House, I would like to acknowledge the good work of the QIMR. I believe the minister said that next month is 80 years since the QIMR has come to Queensland and has been providing groundbreaking work for all Australians.

As has been noted, this bill repeals the 1945 legislation, and it has done so because the government are claiming that there will be a modernisation. In fact, the member for Mackay said words to the effect of ‘modern standards will be applied’ to this new piece of legislation and will do away with outdated structures that are holding systems back. That leads to the statement of reservation of the opposition when it comes to the Governor in Council process in terms of the selection of council members.

I know that every member of the government, of course, is aware of what Governor in Council is. I know there would not be a single member on that side who would get up and speak to this bill and the talking points without knowing what Governor in Council is. I know that the member for Capalaba would definitely be aware of it. I know that the member for Townsville would absolutely be able to get up on his feet right now and explain what Governor in Council is. It is wonderful that they all know exactly what they are doing in clause 11. They cannot hide from it; they all know what it is.

The minister spoke of the importance of modernising, though it is important that we reflect on the initial debate, all the way back in 1945. It is important for this House to reflect on what the important principles of this legislation were when it came to the House. I note that a couple of members of the opposition have quoted the Hon. TA Foley. I have to admit that I thought I would be the only one quoting from the debate in 1945, but there we are. We have some keen historians on this side of the House. I note that the Hon. Tom Foley, on the second reading of the bill, said—

On the initiation stage of this Bill I gave a full outline of the main principles embodied in it. I will now review them briefly.

The main principle is the setting up of a Queensland Institute of Medical Research controlled by a council which shall be composed of members as set out in the Bill, who will be appointed by the Governor in Council.

That is the first key principle that the Hon. Tom Foley referred to in his second reading contribution. It was not just Mr Foley; indeed, Mr Frank Nicklin also gave a speech back in 1945.

Mr Ryan: Leader of the Opposition.

Mr SMITH: Mr Nicklin, the then leader of the opposition—I take that interjection from the member for Morayfield—said—

The appointment of the council that is to be responsible for the direction of the activities of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research will be one of the most important provisions of the Bill, and I expected that at this stage the Minister would have given us fuller information on the composition of this council.

How apt those words are from Mr Nicklin, whom those opposite hold in such high regard—that he would say those words as a key principle of the bill. In fact, he went on further to say—

Then we have one member nominated by the Minister to represent the Government. What is the Minister's intention there?

How apt again are those words, that this proposed legislation would abolish the Governor in Council having a role in the selection of council members and allow for the minister to make the direct decision. How very interesting that the key principle of the original legislation is now being abolished by the government today.

It is interesting because we have heard a lot of different phrases from those opposite. We have heard that clause 11 will get rid of red tape, that it will bring transparency, that it will bring integrity, that it will bring modernisation and that it will improve governance. Let's unpack that. Governor in Council is the Governor and two Executive Council members—that is, ministers. The LNP backbench have said today that they will improve transparency and integrity by making sure they do not have multiple ministers making any decisions on the QIMR. They actually want their ministers not to be anywhere near this legislation because it would actually improve governance by having fewer ministers involved in the decision-making. I tell you what: they should not just read the talking points; they should actually understand parliament and the Westminster system. The Governor in Council is the key pillar of the Westminster system where the parliament is under the Crown and the Governor represents the Crown.

With that in mind, these very strong words indicate that members within the government oppose the constitutionally protected Governor in Council. That is right: the Governor in Council is protected in the Constitution of Queensland. When those opposite say that they are modernising, they are suggesting that they are opposed to the fundamental principle of a Westminster parliament. These claims of increasing transparency and integrity and improving governance appear to be direct attacks on the Governor by those opposite. The Governor of Queensland is being attacked today in this House by those LNP backbenchers—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I take personal offence on behalf of the government. The member on his feet knows—just look at his face—that he is insulting the name of the Governor. It is atrocious and I ask that the member withdraw his statements about the Governor of Queensland, the King's representative in this state.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): To that point of order: I remind the member that personal offence can only be taken by a member personally and they need to be present to do that, so there is no point of order.

Mr SMITH: I am referring directly to clause 11, which is about the Governor in Council, and I am explaining what the role of the Governor is in Governor in Council. There is no point of order from the Attorney-General.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, I have already ruled on that point of order. You may resume.

Mr SMITH: Claims of increasing transparency and integrity appear to be, as I said, a direct attack on the Governor of this state by the LNP backbench. Indeed, it appears to present a growing move for revolution against the principles of this parliament and the very constitution that governs it—the Constitution of Queensland.

As we know, the Governor acts on behalf of the Crown and it appears that with this clause the LNP backbench are looking for Queensland to become a republic. The LNP are calling for Queensland to be a republic by cutting out the role of the Governor in this state.

Mr LEE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is well and truly straying from the subject matter of the legislation.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, I have looked through the explanatory notes and the report and there is no mention of a republic. Please stick to the long title of the bill.

Mr SMITH: Next they will be asking to change the flag of Queensland. That is how they represent Queenslanders over there.

Mr LEE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to remind the member again to be relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, please stick to the long title and everything covered in the bill.

Mr SMITH: If I talked about irrelevant members of parliament, it would be about the member for Hervey Bay. Let's move on to the membership of the council. This is why it is so important we maintain Governor in Council. The role of the Governor in Council—

Mr LEE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to the member for Bundaberg's remarks and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SMITH: I withdraw. Clause 11 refers to council members and states—

- (2) The Minister may appoint a person as a council member only if the Minister is satisfied the person—
 (a) is appropriately qualified in at least 1 of the following areas—

The clause then lists the areas. Why not have two members of the Executive Council meet with the Governor in Council to ensure the Governor is able to fulfil their role of questioning the decision-making of the executive, of making sure the executive has considered all applications and of making sure the government is working in the best interests of the state? How does cutting out the Governor—the representative of the Crown to whom we all swore allegiance—improve transparency? How does it improve integrity? How is that modernising? Unless they are calling for Queensland to not be under the Crown, it is not modernising at all. All they are doing is giving direct power to a minister of the Crown by cutting out the consideration of the Crown. That is the difference.

When those opposite read out talking points, they do not understand the very system of parliament they are under. They do not understand the Westminster system. They just nod their head and agree because they are told to. Maybe they need to have a conversation with the Governor about the importance of the Governor's role in decision-making and advising the Queensland government, or they could watch the documentary on the 1975 dismissal. That will probably help them understand a little bit quicker.

Once again, we have a government that is inept of understanding key fundamental principles of the Westminster system as to how to govern properly. I might add that, back in the day, Frank Nicklin spoke about the appointments to that board and how all of them were men. It is disappointing that no provision is being proposed in this legislation to ensure women are part of the membership of the council. Once again, this right-wing LNP is going back in time—all the way back to 1945, when the very bill that they are trying to repeal was enacted.

Mr McDonald: Just trust us.

Mr SMITH: I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. He said, 'Just trust us.' The Governor cannot trust you, so why should the rest of us? Do not make Queensland a republic. Stay loyal to your roots.



Ms JAMES (Barron River—LNP) (5.05 pm): I rise today to share my contribution on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. This bill replaces the 80-year-old Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 and introduces a contemporary legislative framework that better suits our growing needs. This new legislation introduces updated governance, procedural and operational frameworks to support the institute's future growth and competitiveness. This bill supports our government's commitment to improving health outcomes for all Queenslanders.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research has a longstanding history of scientific excellence in our state. It delivers world-class research that directly improves the lives of Queenslanders. Its long list of achievements include breakthroughs in cancer, in infectious diseases and in mental health. QIMR has consistently translated research into real-world impact. This bill establishes a new governance structure for QIMR, including a redefined council with clearer roles and responsibilities. It introduces provisions for commercialisation and incentive payments to encourage innovation and partnerships.

This research matters deeply to Far North Queensland. One such example is its pioneering work in melanoma prevention. Queensland is already known as the skin cancer capital of the world, with melanoma rates 40 per cent higher than the national average. Australia itself has the highest per capita incidence of melanoma globally, with rates 8.7 times higher than the global average. In Far North Queensland, where UV exposure is intense and year round, the risk is even greater. Our region faces some of the highest rates of melanoma in the world. Melanoma is the second most common cancer in Far North Queensland, and I commend the Queensland Institute of Medical Research for everything they are doing in this space.

In 2022 doctors at the FNQH skin cancer centre found more than 150 melanomas in the first six months of the year. Earlier this year I met with Jason and the team at Skin Doctors on Barr Street during their opening. In just two weeks of the clinic being open they found 18 melanomas, highlighting the importance of early skin checks. If you have not had yours, go and get one. Cancer Council Queensland notes an average of 219 melanomas are diagnosed in Far North Queensland a year—140 are males and 79 are females. This is why the work of QIMR Berghofer is so critical.

The updated QIMR melanoma risk calculator is one of the many leading innovations developed from over a decade of data and 40,000 participants in the landmark QSkin study. This tool now includes 16 personal risk factors. Nearly 80,000 Australians have already used QIMR's upgraded melanoma risk calculator. QIMR has also launched the Q-Inform study, which is being led by Dr Matthew Law, to determine the most effective way to communicate melanoma risk to Australians. This study will ensure people not only know their risk but also are empowered to act on it, especially in high-risk regions like Far North Queensland. This bill is about better tools, better data and better outcomes in the fight against melanoma and other pressing health challenges, and that is what the Crisafulli government is backing under this legislation.

Another groundbreaking study out of QIMR which was published just last week confirmed something that many of us females have long felt but could not quite explain—that is, women carry nearly twice the genetic risk for major depression as men. The study, which analysed the DNA of nearly 200,000 people, found that women are more likely to experience depression in ways that are often overlooked—weight gain, fatigue, excessive sleep and emotional withdrawal. These symptoms do not always scream for attention. In fact, they are often considered the norm, where tiredness is simply the mask of motherhood or emotional withdrawal is simply the price of parental burnout. However, 28.1 per cent of Queensland women aged 16 to 85 reported experiencing a mental disorder in the last 12 months. That is 45.6 per cent higher than men.

What is even more striking is that these genetic markers overlap with metabolic rates, meaning our bodies and minds are deeply interconnected. This opens the door to treatments that are tailored to us—to our biology, our experiences and our needs as women. This research, like many of the other key projects under QIMR, is a call to action on the importance of mental health services designed for women, especially in regional areas. It tells us that our pain is real, our needs are valid and our health must be prioritised. I commend all of the researchers, inventors and innovators and support staff for their extraordinary contribution to science and health.

After 10 years of health decline under Labor, the government is doing what it takes to mend a broken health system, starting with legislation. One thing we are improving is the incentivisation scheme, because the current act only permits bonuses for employees who are classed rigidly as 'discoverers' or 'inventors'. This excludes many people including collaborators working under non-traditional employment arrangements who meaningfully contribute to the institute's work. Imagine awarding a championship medal only to the striker who scores the winning goal while ignoring the defenders, the midfield, coaches and support staff who made the victory possible. Medical research teams are no different.

Success is a team effort, and the current act fails to recognise the many contributors who play essential roles behind the scenes. This bill ensures that all of those who meaningfully advance discovery are encouraged and rewarded accordingly, not through bonuses but instead through commercialised incentive payments. At the heart of the QIMR's success is collaboration. The objective is clear: to attract and retain world-class talent while recognising the essential role of collaboration in modern medical research. The intended outcome is equally vital: to encourage research that improves health outcomes.

This bill also reduces the red tape that often plagues our system. Currently, all QIMR council appointments are made by the Governor in Council which can lead to unnecessary delays and affect the council's ability to remain responsive and effective. This bill transfers the responsibility to our health minister, the Hon. Tim Nicholls, who has already proven his capabilities in just 12 months of delivering better health services for Queensland. As Minister Nicholls said, 'This change will improve responsiveness and reduce administrative delays that can hinder the effective operations of the institute.' It will enable swift appointments without compromising integrity or transparency.

At the heart of this bill is bettering our health system behind the scenes. By providing QIMR with the legislative framework it needs, we are empowering vital research and innovation that will benefit Queenslanders for generations to come. I support this bill and congratulate the minister and his team on taking strong action.



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (5.13 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill. Who would have thought 80 years ago, when a bunch of parliamentarians sat in this chamber and debated this very concept, that the QIMR, the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, would go on to have such an impactful legacy for not only the people of Queensland—

Mr Stevens: I would have thought! I thought it would be good.

Mr RYAN: We know that the member for Mermaid Beach is ancient. He was probably here when they had those discussions! He is looking forward to the next phase in his life anyway, I am sure. Who would have thought that 80 years ago members of this House would have foreseen the tremendous legacy that a bill creating the Queensland Institute of Medical Research would have not only on the lives of Queenslanders, the people we represent, but also on the lives of people around the world—and it has been quite a significant contribution.

It was the legacy of Dr Derrick, who wrote the report that went to the heart of the establishment of the institute, and the shepherding of the legislation by the then minister for health and home affairs, Tom Foley, who I found was also a member of this House for a very long time—41 years, would you believe? He was not only the health minister who championed the QIMR establishment but also a significant contributor. It was a Labor government at the time, but I recognise that it was a bipartisan bill. The opposition at the time, led by Frank Nicklin, who went on to become premier of Queensland and who made some very insightful remarks in respect of the establishment and governance of the QIMR, supported the bill.

The legacy of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research is far-reaching. It has touched the lives of many and it has championed research in areas which may not necessarily have been explored had it not been for the Queensland priority that the QIMR has had throughout its history in respect of many illnesses and the experiences of Queenslanders. We heard from the member for South Brisbane about a great piece of work that led to the diagnosis of the Ross River virus. It is a Queensland virus that was discovered by the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. Of course, from that, appropriate medical interventions could then be explored to support people who caught the virus. The priority around Queensland viruses, Queensland diseases and illnesses impacting Queenslanders was foreshadowed when the initial bill was debated 80 years ago.

I note that throughout its history the Queensland Institute of Medical Research has explored many groundbreaking medical initiatives and research into health conditions. For instance, there was work done around particular viruses and particular experiences where QIMR research led to a breakthrough cellular therapy outcome and, in the instance of a young boy called Koby, following his bone marrow transplant, that cellular therapy saved his life. On the website of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research they say that he was 'riddled with it' but in a week he was a different child. In two weeks they were talking about discharging him from the hospital. The virus was just gone.

Mr Bailey: Extraordinary!

Mr RYAN: I take that interjection from the member for Miller. Who would have thought that 80 years ago the very bill that was being debated by parliamentarians in this chamber would have led to research by outstanding people in Queensland to save the life of a young boy like Koby? It is quite extraordinary, and it does go to the heart of ensuring that the legacy of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research continues. It continues in a way that Queenslanders can have faith in not only the work that they do but the governance and how the government appoints people to the QIMR. That leads to a key concern that the opposition has in respect of this bill. It is embodied in clause 11, which is about shifting the appointment process from Governor in Council appointments to appointments made directly by the minister.

There is particular scrutiny, oversight and transparency that goes along with a Governor in Council appointment. In recent times we have seen that there has been less scrutiny, less transparency and less accountability in relation to appointments made directly by ministers and governments in this government. To remove the accountability and transparency process of a Governor in Council appointment does give rise to the concerns the opposition has and it is a clause that we cannot support as a result.

On 12 September 1945, when the initial bill was debated, the then health and home affairs minister, Tom Foley, said—

At the present time there is a world-wide awakening to the value of research work in all its aspects. Science offers the solution of many of our medical problems. In general scientific research the results achieved in the last few decades have been wonderful, indeed astounding, and of great benefit to the community.

Of course, we have seen that continue. Tom Foley, the then health minister, spoke about the importance of having Governor in Council appointments.

In fact, others spoke about the importance of Governor in Council appointments. Sir Frank Nicklin, who went on to be the conservative premier of Queensland, said that was important. In fact, in *Hansard* from 3 October 1945 Sir Frank Nicklin said—

The composition of the institute is so important that I think the House is entitled to some hint from the Minister concerning the intentions of the Government in respect to the constitution of the council.

That was with respect to an appointment process where there was Governor in Council, where there was transparency and accountability around the process. A similar question could be asked of this health minister when we reinforce the words of Sir Frank Nicklin and say, ‘The composition of the institute is so important that the House is entitled to some hint from the minister concerning the intentions of the government.’

The challenge we have here is that this minister will be able to directly appoint people to the institute. The government is removing Governor in Council oversight, the very mechanism that Sir Frank Nicklin said was so important. Another member on 3 October also said—

... a Director is going to be permitted to exercise much independence of thought or much independence of action; I picture the Director in the terms of the principle of this Bill, wrapped and swathed in red tape from the minute he is first chosen. I picture his every action and every thought subjected to not only direction but multitudinous direction, and—supreme over every other form of direction—ministerial direction.

The accountability that was put in place around Governor in Council appointments was to ensure the independence of the institute and to allow scientists and good people to identify the priorities in the interests of the people of Queensland—not political priorities, not the minister’s priorities. Once this process is changed, what happens if the minister does not like the direction of QIMR? Because there is no Governor in Council oversight anymore, no Governor in Council transparency or accountability, the minister can act outside of that process.

Mr Bailey: Look at the US.

Mr RYAN: I take that interjection from the member for Miller. We do have concerns around this change in clause 11. We have concerns around the removal of oversight, the removal of transparency and the removal of accountability. We all want QIMR to continue the great legacy that started 80 years ago. It is a legacy that saved people’s lives, a legacy that will continue to save people’s lives, and a legacy that all Queenslanders can be very proud of.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.23 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. First of all, I will say how pleased I am to support a bill that modernises one of Queensland’s oldest and most respected research institutions. For Toowoomba, this comes at the right time. We are currently developing a single campus hospital on a great parcel of land in Toowoomba. It is poised to become not only a regional hub for medical services but also a great opportunity for expanding medical research, clinical trials and various innovations that might suit people who live west of the divide in regional and remote Queensland. Our city can take direct benefit from the partnerships, training and career pathways that this legislation will support.

Before I go too much further into it I want to make a particular comment concerning my good friend Clive Berghofer AM and his contribution. He has proven himself to be one of Australia’s most generous citizens as well as a former mayor of Toowoomba and a former member of this House, so his contribution has been great. To this institution back in 2013 he donated \$50 million, which is a substantial donation. In recognition of that, ‘Berghofer’ was added onto the end of QIMR. When people from Toowoomba drive to the airport and see the sign they feel very proud that one of our favourite citizens made such a great philanthropic donation. It is one of the single largest donations in Australia’s history.

Obviously this has helped the institution expand its work in cancer, genetics and mental health and ensures that research can be well funded to serve the people of Queensland. This just goes to show how an institution like this can be supported and shaped to serve Queensland, particularly those regional Queenslanders who know that innovation in medical research is critical to serve our way of life. Regional Queenslanders live a slightly different lifestyle to other Queenslanders, so when medical problems come up involving different symptoms, different diseases or whatever, they need specific research. To have this institution based in Queensland is very important, and to make sure it is modern and effective is the duty of a minister. This also embodies the spirit of Toowoomba. The institute is out there on the cutting edge looking for innovation, making sure it is well-researched, practical and community minded, so all of those things are very important.

I will go into a bit of detail on the bill itself. As we have heard from many people, it repeals and replaces a bill from 1945, almost 80 years ago. It is good to make sure that legislation is fit for purpose. I have heard the opposition on many occasions talk about various pieces of legislation and how they need to be kept up to date and made to fit the circumstances of our environment here and now. The fact that we have a fit-for-purpose governance framework for QIMR that aligns with contemporary standards of integrity and transparency is a great move forward. You would like to think that people are always going to do the right thing, but there is nothing like a bit of transparency and a few integrity checks along the way to make sure people keep on the straight and narrow. I am sure in this august institution they always have.

A really important part is that in terms of research it is competing for funding, access and people all around the world, so to keep it well governed, globally connected and competitive means it needs to be nimble. It needs to be able to make adjustments, particularly in a world where AI and other things are developing. If there are changes required or if there is a skill set required, it needs to be able to make that change in an effective and timely manner.

Some key reforms include commercialisation and incentive payments, which are obviously very important. This introduces a fairer and more flexible reward structure to help the people who have research successes. I fundamentally believe in getting paid for your hard work. If you have a particularly innovative approach and you have had a breakthrough in research, you should certainly be able to benefit from that. Having a more flexible and fairer methodology of doing that is very important, so it will remove some of the rigid bonuses and introduce inclusive incentive payments, recognising that the whole team is behind a medical breakthrough and not just a few inventors. I think that is really important.

This is going to be about collaboration. If we are going to get the breakthroughs, we need a whole team of people working, so having a flexible reward system that ensures the team is getting the benefit from that is great. The caps will be adjusted to reflect a modern collaboration—with \$10 million per project and \$5 million per person per financial year. Again, we need to make sure this is kept up to date and current because it is important.

The bill aligns QIMR governance with the Hospital Foundations Act 2018, and this is important. It is interesting that that act was introduced under a Labor government and this is aligning with that, yet others are critical of this. The bill enables the minister to obtain criminal history information for council members and strengthens transparency in financial oversight. I do not think anyone can disagree with that; it seems like a good, modern way to approach the governance of such an august institution. Obviously, that will lead to improved community confidence and accountability.

The bill transfers council appointment powers from Governor in Council to the health minister. It is interesting that those opposite seem to think that is very controversial. If they are in government, it means they too can be more responsive and faster and make sure they can keep up to date. That is something they obviously do not value, and we know that because of the way they governed Queensland for the last 10 years.

The bill allows the QIMR council to appoint its own director with ministerial approval and to appoint acting directors for up to six months. If people are headhunted and poached for similar institutions around the world, particularly if they are having great success, we need to be able to act swiftly and concisely to make sure Queensland is looked after. It is a good idea to make the minister able to do that.

The bill will simplify some of the delegation powers, meeting procedures and the handling of gifts and donations. We should be encouraging all of those gifts and donations to such a great institution. I am sure at some stage we will hear Clive's name mentioned again, because he is such a generous man who has always made sure that research is being done to enable good outcomes for Queenslanders.

This bill is important to Queenslanders because our population is growing and aging. I am feeling the signs of that myself.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr WATTS: I am hoping they can work out various things to ensure that as I approach my 60s my prime returns. That is a few years away yet.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, I hope you come back to the long title soon.

Mr WATTS: It is important that we are researching contemporary matters. An aging population will bring challenges not only for medical research but also for medical services. This institution is about making sure we are at the cutting edge and looking for solutions that are appropriate for our population. We are making sure the minister can ensure that its governance is nimble and that donations and

contributions are made in a contemporary way. We really want to make sure this institution thrives into the future and remains a world leader and one of our most powerful research institutions here in Queensland.

Other members have spoken about the QIMR success stories, including the melanoma risk calculator and TMS depression trials. QIMR have also delivered various cancer drugs. I support the bill. I thank Clive very much and I thank the minister for a great piece of legislation.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.33 pm): I rise to address the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. This legislation represents another important reform by the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government to modernise Queensland's statutory frameworks, ensuring that our public institutions remain contemporary, accountable and capable of delivering the innovation that underpins the health and prosperity of our state of Queensland.

For almost 80 years the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, QIMR, has been one of Queensland's great scientific and medical institutions. Since its establishment in 1945, QIMR has evolved from a small operation of seven researchers in an ex-military hut in Victoria Park into one of the world's leading medical and research institutions. It now employs more than 1,000 scientists, clinicians and students.

QIMR's contribution to medical science has been extraordinary. Its research has driven advances in cancer biology, infectious disease control, genetics, mental health and population health, with translational benefits that extend far beyond Queensland's borders. Across the last eight decades, its work has saved lives, informed public policy and helped enshrine Queensland's reputation as a global leader in medical discovery. However, after 80 years, the legislative framework governing QIMR—the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945—is no longer fit for purpose for the contemporary research environment.

The world has changed dramatically so our statutory frameworks must be modernised. Accordingly, this legislation repeals the 1945 act and replaces it with a modern and fit-for-purpose legislative framework. It ensures that QIMR's governance arrangements reflect contemporary standards of integrity, accountability and efficiency. It will also allow QIMR to remain at the forefront of discovery and innovation and to continue contributing to improved health outcomes for Queenslanders.

As a specialist physician, I appreciate the vital role of translational research in advancing medicine—research that moves from the laboratory to the clinic, from discovery to treatment, and from innovation to improved quality-of-life outcomes. QIMR has long been a leader in that endeavour. However, importantly, it does not operate in isolation. It is part of a world-class health ecosystem that includes our universities, hospitals and biotechnology companies, each contributing to the advancement of human health. Since I completed my medical training and both my internship and residency at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in the mid-1990s, I have watched as the Queensland Institute of Medical Research has continued to evolve over the last 30 years.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025 will strengthen the health ecosystem here in Queensland by ensuring QIMR has the capacity to collaborate effectively and respond swiftly to opportunities and challenges alike. Here in Brisbane, QIMR forms part of the broader Herston Health Precinct alongside the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and the University of Queensland. These institutions together are at the forefront of our state's research and clinical excellence, and their partnership is essential to Queensland's ongoing success in medical innovation.

As the state member for Moggill, I know that many residents in our community across Brisbane's western suburbs work within our universities and research institutions. Their expertise and contributions drive much of the innovation that we see in our hospitals, in public health and in biotechnology. The local connection between research and community outcomes cannot be overstated, and we certainly thank them for all of their ongoing work and discovery.

I am also delighted to be one of the official champions of the University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience, IMB. I am particularly proud of the collaborative work that has been taking place between IMB and QIMR. Together, these two institutions have achieved remarkable outcomes and demonstrate the power of Queensland's research partnerships.

One prominent example of Queensland's research collaboration is the Queensland Emory Development (QED) Alliance—a partnership historically linking QIMR, IMB and the Emory University in the United States. Under that alliance, Queensland researchers have worked together to advance drug and vaccine development in areas such as cancer, infectious diseases and therapeutics. Over the years, the momentum from the QED Alliance has carried into newer initiatives—for example, the

Queensland Emory Drug Discovery Initiative, which continues to build on that early collaborative foundation. These kinds of partnerships showcase the unique strength of Queensland's research landscape, one where collaboration, not competition, drives discovery.

As QIMR celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, the Institute for Molecular Bioscience is similarly celebrating its 25th anniversary. This milestone not only recognises a quarter century of world-class scientific achievement but also reaffirms Queensland's position as a global leader in biotechnology, genomics and molecular medicine. I look forward to joining with the University of Queensland and many others in recognising this milestone.

I turn to some of the specific details of the legislation. The Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025 delivers a number of key reforms. Firstly, it introduces a new governance framework for QIMR and its council, aligning it with modern standards of public administration. It will strengthen integrity and accountability by requiring the council to notify the minister of any significant concerns about the institute's financial position or management and by enabling the Minister for Health to access relevant criminal history information of council members. These measures promote confidence in QIMR's operations and safeguard the reputation of one of our most trusted institutions here in Queensland. Importantly, this legislation will also update the arrangements for the appointment of the director of QIMR. Under a new framework, the council may appoint the director with ministerial approval, allowing greater flexibility to recruit and retain high-calibre research leaders. The legislation also allows for the appointment of acting directors for up to six months, ensuring continuity of leadership during transitional periods.

I also note that another key reform being delivered is in relation to commercialised incentive payments. Under the current act, the framework for recognising intellectual property contributions is restrictive and outdated and this bill modernises that approach by establishing a fairer and more flexible structure that recognises the collaborative nature of modern science. These changes are about more than administrative efficiency; they are about building an environment that encourages innovation and attracts the best and brightest researchers to Queensland. Indeed, in a global market for talent, we must ensure that our institutions can be rewarded for excellence, foster creativity and retain the people whose work delivers our life-saving discoveries.

Finally, the bill also clarifies QIMR's ability to receive and manage gifts, donations and bequests in line with financial and governance best practice. This is an important update as philanthropic and community support certainly plays a vital role in sustaining research and enabling long-term scientific investment. Beyond these structural reforms, this legislation reflects the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government's broader vision, one that recognises that a strong and modern translational research sector is essential to a strong and modern health system. QIMR's research is delivering outcomes that embody this vision. Its collaborations, including those with the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, have further advanced the understanding of cancer genetics and mental health. They have demonstrated what is possible when Queensland's best minds work together across institutions.

In concluding my contribution, I say that this legislation is about giving QIMR the legislative support it needs to continue that work, to keep being a respected leader in translational science and to strengthen the partnerships that define Queensland's health and innovation landscape. As QIMR celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, it is timely that this parliament renews its commitment to the institute's success. I wish to extend my appreciation to QIMR's council, leadership team and staff as well as the countless researchers, clinicians and students who contribute daily to Queensland's scientific excellence.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025 strengthens the governance, flexibility and integrity of one of our state's most valued institutions. It ensures that Queensland remains at the forefront of global medical research, delivering better health outcomes and economic opportunities for generations to come. Those clinicians, researchers and others make contributions to not only improve the health, wellbeing and lives of Queenslanders but also create critically important economic opportunities for our state. That not improves only the efficiency of our health system but also provides economic opportunities for job creation. With those words, I commend the bill to the House.



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (5.43 pm): I rise to support the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025, a bill that reinforces our government's focus on improving health outcomes, strengthening integrity and ensuring Queensland remains at the forefront of world-class medical research. This bill introduces a modern, fit-for-purpose framework for QIMR, updating governance and integrity provisions, addressing operational limitations and reducing administrative burden. These

reforms will strengthen QIMR's governance and competitiveness, enabling it to focus on world-class research that improves health outcomes for Queenslanders and enhances our state's reputation as a leader in medical research.

The bill replaces the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 which has served QIMR well for 80 years but no longer meets today's needs. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government is not asleep at the wheel. We are proactively reforming outdated legislation to ensure Queenslanders continue to have access to a world-class health system that not only meets today's demands but anticipates tomorrow's challenges. Our population is growing in size and age, which places new pressures on our hospitals and health services. That is why alongside essential infrastructure projects, such as the new 600-bed Coomera Hospital and the new H block at Gold Coast University Hospital, we are strengthening the very foundation of healthcare progress: research. Every day new discoveries and technologies are transforming how we diagnose, treat and prevent disease.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025 exemplifies this government's commitment to ensuring our statutory bodies remain modern, transparent and responsive. The new framework reflects contemporary standards in public administration, governance and integrity. The parliamentary committee received four written submissions alongside a public briefing and hearing. These came from the Council of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, QIMR Berghofer; the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners; the Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes, AAMRI; and the College of Children and Young People's Nurses. Queensland Health also provided a departmental response to the issues raised. Throughout the bill's development, Queensland Health consulted QIMR and its council, both of whom support these reforms. Between 2023 and 2025 Queensland Health conducted three rounds of external consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including medical research institutes, universities, funding bodies, unions, professional associations, legal bodies, state agencies and federal regulators. Stakeholders were generally supportive of the bill and its focus on modernisation with feedback incorporated where appropriate.

QIMR is Queensland's homegrown, globally respected medical research institute. Founded in 1945 with just seven staff working from an ex-military hut in Victoria Park, it has grown into a research powerhouse with around a thousand scientists, clinicians, students and support staff. In a former term of government it was my privilege, along with other representatives of a previous health committee, to actually visit the institute. I have to say that some of the research that we witnessed on that occasion was nothing short of astounding. In fact, one of our visits was during the COVID period, not in the early days but toward the back end of the COVID period that we experienced as a state.

It was remarkable to speak with researchers who were actually growing, as they described, human hearts in Petri dishes so they could test some of the COVID vaccines on real-life human tissue. I remember them asking us to go into this particular room and look through a microscope. There lying in this tiny little Petri dish of about 30 samples—there were five or six rows each way—there appeared to be miniature hearts. I do not know whether it was my imagination or the theatre of the moment, but they actually appeared to be beating of their own volition such was the work of these scientists. Some of the work they do is absolutely mind-boggling. The imagination, the creativity and the courage it takes to venture into some of these realms is commendable, but it is also somewhat mind-boggling to see where our scientists are taking us.

On that occasion we also had opportunity to witness some 3D printing in that scientists were 3D printing with bio-organic material the scaffolding that would one day hopefully help rebuild breast tissue. The theory behind that particular research, although I am sure it still had a long way to go, was that in installing the scaffolding it would eventually fill with fatty material from the body and then the bio-organic material would dissolve as a way of regrowing or replacing breast tissue. I am sure there are many in the House who can see the importance, the significance and the courage of that kind of research.

One of QIMR's many significant achievements was the discovery of Ross River virus in 1963. If anyone has ever had the opportunity to visit the institute, they will have seen that it has maintained numerous populations of mosquitoes from all across the country. It has managed to breed them and keep them alive, in some cases for decades, and this has allowed it to do significant work into mosquito research and the spreading of insect-borne diseases. It was this advanced rapid blood testing and the deeper understanding of this mosquito-borne illness, in research led by Professor Ralph Doherty and his team into Ross River virus, that enabled the medical industry to look more objectively at how to treat Ross River fever and to understand what causes the severe joint pain, the fever and the rashes. As someone who was diagnosed with Ross River fever back in the 1970s, I am personally very grateful for that early work done in the sixties by the institute and the work that it has done in diagnostic and treatment breakthroughs because of that research.

As QIMR celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, I want to extend my sincere thanks to its researchers, inventors, innovators and support staff. Their dedication, skill and passion have cemented Queensland's reputation as a global leader in medical research. This bill ensures QIMR has a strong legislative foundation—the foundation that it needs to continue this vital work driving innovation, improving health outcomes and shaping a healthier future for all Queenslanders. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (5.51 pm): I rise to speak briefly on the QIMR Bill before the House and first indicate that the Labor opposition supports the life-changing research that is made possible by this bill. It always perplexes me that there are people who either are deniers or do not accept that science is the way forward in terms of matters like those contained in the bill before us through QIMR Berghofer. People who deny science are those deniers who have been around for some time, whether it be on climate change or on matters before the House in respect of this bill. As a person who has believed in science the entirety of my life, I understand the importance of it and the importance of contributions delivered through inquiries on bills such as this in dealing with QIMR and its research.

We do support the majority of the changes proposed by the bill, including those making incentive payments fairer. However, we have concerns that the changes to the appointment process, including the removal of Governor in Council approval for appointments, call into question the integrity and transparency that was promised by the LNP.

QIMR has conducted some groundbreaking research. Some of that has been spoken about today. An example is Ross River fever. I have worked with people who have experienced the debilitating effects of that disease in terms of their inability to perform their day-to-day work and other functions. Melanoma is another example. Many people have been affected, given that Queensland is the melanoma capital. I speak personally in that my wife suffered from melanoma before we had children and had a sizeable part of her stomach removed—a scar about the size of a banana is indented into her stomach—as a result of sunbaking. We only learn by those mistakes as we see the effects of melanoma cancers around our state. It is so important that we support not only legislation like this but also the Berghofer institute for the research that is conducted to prevent those sorts of illnesses.

Additionally, we dealt with COVID. I am forever encouraged by some of the comments in terms of the research that we were provided with in dealing with that disease that affected many people in our state, our nation and the world. I want to put on record my thanks to the previous member for Stafford, Dr Anthony Lynham, for his deliberations and understanding that he provided to this chamber and to our cabinet at the time that made Queenslanders safe. One only needs to travel to other states now to realise how grateful they are. That is why we have population growth, with people migrating to Queensland because we kept Queenslanders safe. We kept people protected from the effects of COVID-19. That is a great example of Labor initiatives that we provided for our constituents—Queenslanders—in protecting them from the effects of COVID.

In terms of the incentive payments, we support those amendments that will appropriately value the hardworking and dedicated scientists, the researchers, the collaborators and the work at QIMR, regardless of the role description. Currently, bonuses can only be paid to employees who fit within narrow eligibility criteria of having their role defined as 'discoverer' or 'inventor'. We know that modern science research within the STEM professions is ever increasing and occurring in a collaborative way which may involve different skill sets and roles. This bill expands on this to allow the council to recognise and reward a wide range of employees who contributed to discoveries and the development of intellectual property. The bill provides a fairer and more equitable way for the payment of those incentives, which is only fair in terms of the outcomes from those incentive payments.

As I indicated in my introduction, we do have some issues with regard to the council appointment process. We do not support the removal of the Governor in Council oversight in the appointment of the council of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. We believe that the removal of this jeopardises the integrity and the transparency of those appointments. We have seen across the board the LNP's 'jobs for mates' recruitment drive and we will not stand by while the LNP makes changes that allow this to happen. It is important that people recognise that the process through the Governor in Council is the correct process—the process that has integrity—to ensure there is no error in judgement as to who is appropriate to fill the positions. The LNP needs to have an understanding of the effects that will occur should this amendment be carried.

 **Mr DILLON:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): I call the member for Gregory.

Mr DILLON (Gregory—LNP) (5.58 pm): I rise to very briefly contribute—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Logan, we can do without the theatrics, thank you.

Mr POWER: Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tapping while somebody else is speaking is inappropriate and you have been here long enough to know not to do that.

Mr POWER: Sorry?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have been here long enough to know not to tap your desk and perform theatrics when somebody else is speaking. You are next, so take your seat, please. I call the member for Gregory.

Mr DILLON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was grateful for the introduction to the chamber by the member for Logan, so thank you.

This evening I rise to very briefly contribute to the debate on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. At the outset I commend and applaud the work of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and his team for their diligence and attention to detail in the drafting of this bill. I also thank the committee for its hard work—led so well by the chair, the member for Burnett, and supported by the government members for Mirani and Mackay—in scrutinising this bill.

Here we have another example of the Crisafulli government getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland. The work of QIMR is almost unparalleled in medical research and, whilst it has been able to consistently modernise its approach to research and medical outcomes, this place has not yet responded by modernising the legislation it is governed by. The great work undertaken through the facility by world-leading researchers on skin cancers and melanoma is something which has touched countless constituents in my electorate. Treatment options and almost certainly thousands of changed lives have resulted. People like Dr Alan Jones can now provide services to communities and individuals right throughout Gregory, providing early detection and saving these lives as a result of the countless hours of research undertaken through QIMR.

I also wish to voice my gratitude for the work undertaken at QIMR by the team led by Dr Brittany Mitchell, as well as the separate team that is linked through Dr Jodi Thomas and her colleagues, into depression in women. Forever we have known in the bush that women are the glue that hold not only our families but our communities together, especially in long periods of absence. The pressure this places on their mental health is obvious and the groundbreaking research that has been undertaken shows there are now identifiable genetic markers which are linked to females only, giving hope to the millions of Australian females and their families who are affected by this terrible disease.

I may not have the training or the intellectual capacity to aid QIMR by way of contribution to the research but by being part of a proactive government led by Premier Crisafulli and his ministry, I can contribute to the legislative overhaul of the act governing this terrific research body. I am proud to be part of a government that can support and seek carriage of this bill so ably crafted by the minister in consultation with the sector at large, especially QIMR and the council itself, who were fully consulted through this development and support the changes. For all the matters raised by those opposite around appointments, especially those outlined by the former speaker, I point out the hypocrisy that they display around government appointments. It is breathtaking. For a party who espouses the procedures they used to appoint the likes of Dave Hanna to a government role to then question the method and individuals appointed by this side would be laughable if it was not so tragic. Again, I stress that the parties most relevant to this decision—the QIMR and its council—support these changes.

The government is methodically reviewing legislation across all portfolios in line with our commitments and in keeping with being a good government. Bringing modern legislative approaches to the older governance frameworks of our terrifically important government agencies, statutory bodies and others is central to this approach. QIMR is a tremendous vehicle for medical research and has changed the lives of millions of people and their families. This overhaul of the legislation that outlines the legislative requirements for QIMR will aid in the entry of this organisation into the 21st century from a governance perspective. This will allow contemporary research to be matched by modern, well-placed administration. We on this side were elected to ensure access to health care where and when it is needed. The critical work undertaken through research at QIMR is part of that. This reform continues to deliver on the commitments we made to the people of Queensland. On behalf of the electorate of Gregory, I add my voice of support to this bill.



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (6.03 pm): I rise to speak about the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill. All Queenslanders—especially this Labor opposition—are rightfully proud and will always be extraordinarily supportive of the work that public research does, especially the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. For the most part, we support the changes that are proposed in this bill, including the making of incentive payments for those researchers who in the course of public research make discoveries that have tremendous value for all Queenslanders and indeed, in some cases, the entire world.

I had the privilege of being able to sit in on the committee to ask the department and officers about the bill. I reflected on the nature of public research into public health. So often those for-profit and only-for-profit researchers in large companies seek to work on the nature of drugs that they know will provide a solution that while being positive for people, is primarily focused on providing the maximum profit possible. An interesting example of this is the GLP-1 drugs, which is the class of drugs that includes the recent weight loss drugs. There are enormous profits being made—it a significant section of the GDP of Denmark—but the original research was pure research which was not aimed at making an immediate return. In fact, it was looking at secretions of very obscure lizards that come from Mexico and South America, the so-called Gila monster. This seemingly unconnected pure research which, of course, had no profit motive and was totally created by public research institutions actually led to enormous changes in the way that we are doing new derivations of drugs. That very last piece obviously comes from companies that are seeking a for-profit motive, and good luck to them, but we should not rule out that so much of this research was in the public interest. It was an obscure public interest that went on to have enormous public benefit. We often see those who criticise public research and public universities being critical of that type of research but we never know where it will go and nothing is more telling than that research there.

I want to thank those researchers. If they get that support and a bonus in retirement—because often their research will be many years in the future—I think that is a good thing. I want to express some concerns, though. We do not support the removal of the Governor in Council and oversight of the appointments—this is too important to be undermined. I was really disappointed in this report. I notice that a previous member pointed out there is a majority of the government that does these reports so, if there are the reservations such as the ones that were clearly raised about the appointments to the council of the Queensland Medical Research Institute—it is understood that all similar governing bodies in Queensland require Governor in Council approval for appointments. This was in the statement of reservation. Why was it omitted from the main body of the bill? It was certainly discussed, it was certainly important, but this report is done by the majority of the committee and the majority of the committee chose to ignore this really important thing. That is not true of the debates that happened in 1945. They knew this in 1945, but this government has forgotten these key principles. The honourable member Foley, who was the secretary of health, made it clear that the institute will be controlled by a council which will be composed of members set out under the bill who will be appointed by the Governor in Council. These principles were set up in 1945 to have a clear diffusion of powers. I note the member spoke about the role of the British system that this government throws away—you spoke about the flag of which he is such a supporter—but this government throws away those principles.

It is not just the Labor member Foley who thought they were important. Some members on the other side may know Mr Nicklin—though few know the history since the merger of the LNP has reduced any of the values they once stood for—but Nicklin stood for values. Mr Nicklin said—

Then we have one member nominated by the Minister to represent the Government.

He had concerns about one member nominated directly by the minister. He asked—

What is the minister's intention there?

Frank Nicklin, who went on to be premier of this state, whose memory here today those opposite throw away, traduce, undermine, have no value for, said—

What is the minister's intention there? Does he intend to nominate a prominent research worker, or is the nominee to be a layman—

to do his bidding? This was the question that Nicklin put forward. This is what those opposite ignore. This is the tradition of the British Westminster system they throw away—they throw away the King; they throw away the flag. Frank Nicklin went on—

The appointment of the council that is to be responsible for the direction of the activities of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research will be one of the most important provisions of the Bill ...

Although this committee chose not to speak about it, in his speech Frank Nicklin highlighted it as one of the most important provisions of the bill. He went on—

... and I expected that at this stage the Minister would have given us fuller information on the composition of this council.

Frank Nicklin knew it; Foley knew it; we know it. The opposition members of this committee made it absolutely clear that this was an important issue, but—and I say this for all of those listening and especially for the young people who are learning how this process works—the government dominated majority forced their will into the report to ignore this key issue.

Frank Nicklin would be very disappointed with this committee. I wonder how much interference there was from the minister's office or, indeed, the minister himself. He wants to get his way, to make the appointments he wants—the very appointments Frank Nicklin questioned when he asked why the government would want to have one appointment and what were they up to. We ask the same question. We ask: why was this report so embarrassingly scant on dealing with these key issues that had been principles of conservative parties in this state for 75 years but now have no place? We ask why and how much the minister's office interfered in that. They had to be included in a statement of opposition but are clearly, as Frank Nicklin said, a key part of this bill.

I am deeply disappointed. We could do better. We could have proper principles fulfilled. We could have Governor in Council continue to have oversight of these appointments, but this LNP government traduces those very principles. The minister gave out talking points to say, 'Look what you did on some other board.' That is not good enough. The health minister needs to be responsible for what he is doing, not point fingers at others and not take away this key framework that means there is a proper appointment process.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.12 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill. The Labor opposition is deeply proud of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research and the world-leading work undertaken by its scientists, researchers and collaborators. For decades the QIMR has stood at the forefront of medical innovation, improving health outcomes not just in Queensland but across Australia and the world. The institute's contributions have been nothing short of extraordinary. Its researchers have pioneered breakthroughs in immunotherapy, played a crucial role in the discovery of Ross River virus and advanced our understanding of melanoma and skin cancer. I have to call out the recent cuts by the LNP to the skin cancer education program here in Queensland. We are the melanoma capital of the world. I think it is extraordinary that the LNP can prioritise a budget for funding ads in the *Courier-Mail* and changing our logo from maroon to blue but cannot find funding for a skin cancer education program, given the incredible rates of skin cancer that we have.

It is work like this by the QIMR that underpins the opposition's strong support for the majority of the bill. These amendments will help to ensure they remain a fair, transparent and modern institution—one that continues to attract and retain the brightest scientific minds that we have in the country. The importance of the QIMR's people cannot be overstated. Science today is not the work of a lone inventor; it is collaborative and complex and multidisciplinary. Under the current legislative framework, only those formally recognised as discoverers or inventors are eligible to receive financial incentives for their contributions or new discoveries through intellectual property.

This bill will modernise that framework. It empowers the QIMR council to acknowledge and reward the full spectrum of professionals who contribute to the institute's achievements, whether they are lab technicians, data analysts, project coordinators or support staff. The reforms recognise that great science is a team effort. Every discovery depends on the collective expertise and dedication of diverse specialists. By broadening eligibility for incentive payments, the bill ensures a fairer and more equitable system—one that truly reflects the Australian value of a fair go for all. The change will not only boost morale and fairness within the institute but also help to attract and retain the talent that we need to keep Queensland at the forefront of global medical research.

The Labor opposition also welcomes the bill's provisions aimed at improving transparency and integrity within the QIMR council. Under these amendments the council will be required to promptly notify the minister of any matters that raise significant concerns, ensuring issues are addressed swiftly and openly. The bill clarifies the management of gifts and the declaration of personal interests and enhances the council's administrative flexibility to respond to operational challenges at the time. These are sensible and practical changes that strengthen accountability and reinforce public trust in the governance of this important institution.

The original Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act has served us well, but science and the structure of research organisations have changed dramatically since it was first written. The bill updates and streamlines the legislation so that it better reflects the modern role and scale of the institute

both as a state leader in health innovation and as a key player in international medical research. In an era when research crosses borders and disciplines, it is important that the QIMR's governance and legislative foundations keep pace with that modern scientific landscape. We hope that the bill will achieve that.

As other speakers have outlined, the opposition supports the intent and substance of much of the legislation; however, we do hold concerns about one key aspect: the proposed changes to the appointment process for the QIMR council. Specifically, the bill removes the existing requirement for Governor in Council oversight of appointments to the council. The opposition believes that this change risks undermining the integrity and transparency of that appointment process. We know the importance of ensuring council members are selected based on their merit, their experience and their expertise, not on their political connections. Removing this oversight opens the door to potential politicisation of appointments.

We have seen this before. The LNP has this in its DNA. The LNP has a long record of 'jobs for mates' recruitment drives, where independence and merit take a back seat to political convenience. The QIMR is too important to be subjected to this level of interference. It deserves strong and independent leadership—people appointed purely on their qualifications, their scientific acumen and their ability to advance Queensland's health research agenda. The Labor opposition will not be standing by while the integrity of the institution is compromised. We believe that every appointment in every circumstance should go to the most qualified person for the job. Queenslanders will get the best outcomes through a Public Service that is built on merit and on fairness.

The Labor opposition supports the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. We welcome the measures that modernise the institute's governance, strengthen accountability and deliver fairer recognition for the hardworking scientists, researchers and staff who make the QIMR one of Queensland's greatest scientific assets. However, we will remain vigilant on the risks associated with changes to the appointment process. The Crisafulli government must not use this as an opportunity to stack the QIMR council with politically aligned appointments. The health of Queenslanders and the integrity of our scientific institutions must never be compromised for political convenience.

The Labor opposition will continue to hold the government to account and continue to fight for fairness, transparency and integrity—values that underpin not only good governance but also good science. We will continue to support the outstanding people of the QIMR whose discoveries and dedication improve lives in Queensland and across the world. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): I welcome to the gallery students from Carmel College.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.18 pm), in reply: In concluding this section of the debate on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025, I thank members for their contributions to the debate. I acknowledge and thank those opposite for their support of the bill and recognition of QIMR's life-changing work. However, I do question some of their bizarre contributions, and I will return to those because they have been many and varied. I have to say that their understanding of history is extremely limited and we will be happy to take that on.

I also say to members opposite, including the member for Logan, that Frank Nicklin would know what he was doing. He would not be sitting on your side of the House and he would not be supporting some of things that you support. Frank Nicklin was a true representative of Queensland and he helped build this state. He persevered in times of adversity to ensure that this state was built. I say to the member for Logan: we do know our history. We do not have people who went off, having been premiers of this state in the 1930s, to try to sell dud mines to the people of New South Wales and subsequently having to resign as members of the federal parliament as a result of that. We remember him pretty well.

For nearly 80 years QIMR has led innovation, trained generations of scientists and delivered breakthroughs that have improved the lives of countless Queenslanders. This bill ensures QIMR can continue that legacy with strong transparent governance. It provides a modern legislative framework with clear functions, integrity safeguards and efficient appointment processes. These reforms ensure that decision-making is accountable and conflicts are properly managed and the bill enables QIMR to keep pace with contemporary medical science.

I turn to issues raised by members during the debate. It will not surprise you, Mr Speaker, if I say that it appears some members did not bother reading the bill. The member for Miller suggested that vesting appointment powers in the minister somehow makes the process secretive or less transparent. Not only does that claim fail to stand up to even basic scrutiny but it is also plainly hypocritical for reasons that I will now explain.

Ministerial appointments of statutory boards are routine, well established and transparent. Across government there are many examples of boards and councils where members are appointed directly by one or more responsible ministers. I will give a few examples. The board of Queensland Rail is appointed directly by the responsible minister. Who was a former transport minister who helped in that process? The member for Miller! Whoops. It is another thing he forgot about. It is another mistake he has made. It is another error from the member for Miller—loose, sloppy, lazy and selective.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I obviously take offence at those sledges and ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr NICHOLLS: I withdraw. Members of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board are appointed by the minister under legislation brought into the House by those opposite, as are board members of the Radiation Advisory Council, the Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council and the Clean Economy Expert Panel. A former premier is on that panel. She seems to be dabbling in everything around clean energy and batteries. I wonder who might have been appointed to the boards of the Financial Provisioning Scheme Advisory Committee and the Electrical Licensing Committee by the member for Miller. Members of the Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland Advisory Council and the Public Trustee Advisory and Monitoring Board are appointed by ministers, mostly under legislation that those on that side introduced into and passed through this House.

It is surprising that the member for Miller has such a short memory. Given the member for Miller's history, which we on this side will never forget, it is no wonder he wants to forget just as he forgot to advise the then premier about a change in the cost of delivering a major transport project and then issued a media release that had the wrong number on it anyway. We all know about the member for Miller's history and the member for Miller's memory: it ain't as good as it ought to be. However, we can always help.

Those opposite appear to have very short memories because the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board was established less than three years ago under those opposite. They were entirely comfortable with ministerial appointments when they were making them but now that they are on the other side of the chamber, like Chicken Little, they come in here as if the sky is about to fall on their heads. How hypocritical can they be? They came into this place and criticised the government for what they had absolutely no issue with while they were in power. Now, it is the worst thing ever. Throughout the debate in relation to this process, they failed to acknowledge what the Queensland Institute of Medical Research said in its submission to the committee. I will come back to that.

As I said, the member for Miller appointed several members of the board of Queensland Rail under section 16 of the Queensland Rail Transit Authority Act 2013. That was our legislation, absolutely, but did you change it? You had a decade. Did you change it?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister—

Mr NICHOLLS: Through the chair—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr NICHOLLS:—here is a question for the member for Miller: did he change it in a decade? No! Did he seek to change it? No!

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, pause for a moment. Member for Miller, I know there is some provocation but there is no need to continuously interject.

Mr NICHOLLS: The hypocrisy knows no bounds. In accordance with that act, which the member for Miller was happy to operate under for the better part of a decade while he was a minister until he self-selected himself out of that portfolio, the appointments were and are still made directly by the transport minister and the Treasurer without any Governor in Council process. The member for Miller now criticises this government for adopting the same model he has made extensive use of. It is transparently hypocritical because in this very chamber he stood and said—

Today I inform the House that Queensland Rail board member David Marchant has accepted the role to succeed Mr Strachan as interim chair of Queensland Rail ... I welcome Mr Marchant's appointment and look forward to working with him and the Queensland Rail board.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the minister is straying a long way from the bill when talking about transport authorities. I was brought back to the bill when I spoke about going—

Mr SPEAKER: Your point of order is on relevance, I presume?

Mr BAILEY: Relevance and inconsistency.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I know you are responding to certain comments but I encourage you to stick to the bill.

Mr NICHOLLS: I think the method of appointment spelled out in the act is consistent with that of many boards, councils and oversight bodies in other pieces of legislation. The method of appointment formed the subject matter of a substantial amount of debate and commentary by those opposite. I listened to most of it and I did not take exception to very much of it at all. In fact, I think I took one point of order in relation to skin cancer but nothing else in relation to their commentary. The debate was very wideranging, including by the member for Logan who just concluded the debate, on the appointment of people to the board. I think it is relevant to say that there is hypocrisy in the argument advanced in the debate on this bill in relation to the appointment process and to draw the House's attention to that hypocrisy.

The member for Miller not only stood in this place and spoke about his appointment of a new member to the board of Queensland Rail but he also issued a media statement in respect to that. Why did he make those ministerial appointments and trumpet them through his media statements when he now claims such ministerial appointments, to use his words, 'reduce transparency'? Not only did he stand in here and speak about his ministerial appointment and not only did he issue a media statement about that; he now says that that process reduces transparency. There is no logic to the member for Miller's argument. That does not surprise those of us on this side of the House, but it is worth highlighting that he was perfectly comfortable exercising those powers when he was in the chair yet now describes the very same process as secretive and untrustworthy. Why did the member for Miller make those appointments when the member for Bundaberg, the genius of constitutional law here in Queensland, claims that removing the Governor in Council process jeopardises the integrity and transparency of appointments and is inconsistent with the Westminster system? He even went so far as to suggest that the LNP is calling for a republic.

Debate, on motion of Mr Nicholls, adjourned.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Trade Mission

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (6.29 pm): For the record of the House, I table a letter to Mr Neil Laurie, the Clerk of the Parliament, dated 14 October 2025 and a report to parliament on an overseas trade mission to London, Lausanne and Paris that I undertook from 1 to 14 September 2025.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 14 October 2025, from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, regarding a trade mission to the United Kingdom, Switzerland and France [\[1562\]](#).

Tabled paper: Overseas Travel Report: Report on Trade Mission to London, Lausanne and Paris by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, 1-14 September 2025 [\[1563\]](#).

Sitting suspended from 6.29 pm to 7.30 pm.

QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH BILL

Second Reading

Resumed on motion of Mr Nicholls—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (7.30 pm), continuing in reply: Prior to the dinner break I was responding to a number of the comments made by members in the House in relation to the bill. I was dealing with the governance issues at clause 11 of the bill and in particular the appointment of members of the council. I was highlighting some of the discrepancies and the hypocrisy in some of the arguments made by those opposite.

I will continue with respect to the appointment process by the minister. This type of appointment process is a normal, accepted feature of Queensland's statutory governance framework, including under laws introduced and maintained by those opposite. As I said in my second reading speech, the

current Governor in Council process can take many months. During that time, key council positions can remain vacant, leaving the institute without the leadership it needs to continue its vital work. The reform is not about secrecy or solely about convenience. It is about ensuring timely, accountable and effective governance for one of Queensland's most important research institutions.

In terms of the Governor in Council approval process and the claims made by those opposite, we can examine some of the appointments made under Governor in Council to address some of the issues raised by those opposite in relation to who is appointed to positions under Governor in Council. Some of those people include, for example, Dave Hanna, who was appointed under Governor in Council—a CFMEU operative and now a convicted rapist. He was appointed by those opposite. We have Linda Lavarch, a former ALP parliamentary member, appointed under Governor in Council and currently still on the board of Metro North. I have not taken any steps to remove her and I am content to allow her to continue to serve in that role. She was appointed by the member for McConnell to chair the Work Health and Safety Board. That was another political appointment by the member for McConnell.

We have Jade Ingham, who was appointed to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. This was a Governor in Council appointment and another Labor affiliated appointment. We have Jacqueline King, the former Queensland Council of Unions state secretary, appointed to the board of CS Energy. That was another Governor in Council appointment. We have Penny Tovey, another Labor member, appointed to the board of CS Energy under Governor in Council. We have Anthony Lynham, a former member and minister in this House, appointed under Governor in Council. He is chair of Seqwater, chair of WorkCover Queensland and chair of the Port of Brisbane Corporation. They are all Governor in Council appointments. We have the member for Miller's old mentor, Jim Soorley. We remember Jim. I remember Jim. The poor old member for Miller could not survive in council once Jim had gone. He self-selected himself out of council in 2004.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As fascinating as some treatise back in the 1990s is, it is not relevant to this bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): I will ask the Minister for Health to keep his comments relevant to the bill.

Mr NICHOLLS: Of course, I will do so, Madam Deputy Speaker. In doing so, I note the many and numerous occasions those opposite referred to the appointment of some members of this side of politics in their contributions to the debate. I think the former member for Burleigh featured very prominently in quite a number of their contributions. Sauce for the goose is apparently not sauce for the gander, according to the member for Miller. Whilst we were content to allow that to occur, we see another sign of the hypocrisy of the member for Miller coming through again. There is no consistency in his argument, no logic in his argument and no rationale in his argument. There are many instances where what the member for Miller says is completely different to what the member for Miller does. Quite frankly, his arguments lack any coherence. They lack any sense of consistency. They are completely contradicted by his actions when he was a minister. It is a very spurious argument.

We heard the member for Logan speak about the committee process. I am unaware of what occurred in committee. I have not spoken to any of the committee members about what occurred in committee. I have obviously read the committee report. The committee report is quite concise and clear. It makes one recommendation—that is, that the bill be passed.

There is no evidence that I see that the other members of the committee voted against it. Did they vote against the committee report or did they not vote against the committee report? The simple question is: did they vote against it or did they not? If they voted against it, I would have some respect for the argument, but we do not have any indication that this is so bad that we must vote against it.

What are they going to do? They either support it or they do not. If they do not support it then they are going to consign the QIMR to working under 80-year-old legislation. Are they going to sneak in at the last minute and circulate an amendment to the bill? They cannot vote against that clause because there will be no appointment process. They have to move an amendment if they are going to make it work. I predict that the member for Miller might move an amendment in the dying moments of consideration in detail. We will see.

They say they support QIMR, but they pay no attention to both the verbal submission made to the committee and the written submission made to the committee which says that QIMR supports the governance model proposed in this bill. QIMR wants the governance model in this bill. They say they

support QIMR but they do not support QIMR's submission in relation to the bill. The hypocrisy of the Labor opposition in this place knows no bounds. Their inconsistency knows no bounds. Professor Arun Sharma, appointed to the council by those opposite, stated—

We support the proposed reforms to the appointment of council members, the director and the CEO. Currently it has to go to the Governor in Council, but we believe the agility required to address these things via the Minister for Health strikes an appropriate balance ... We are competing in a global environment. If we have to appoint a director, they may come from overseas and it may involve visa processes. These are lengthy processes. In the current geopolitical context, Queensland's and Australia's quality of life and our medical research capability allow us to attract talent, and we need that agility.

That is from the chair of the council himself, supported by Professor Fabienne Mackay, who also put that in their written submission.

The council itself is responsible for identifying the mixed skills and expertise required, conducting open, competitive and merit-based recruitment processes and recommending the best candidates to the minister for appointment. I understand that merit-based appointments are an alien concept to those opposite, but we know the under pressure and underperforming Leader of the Opposition was not appointed on merit; he was appointed by his union powerbroker mates in the UUU. If this opposition truly believed in merit-based appointments, we would see the member for Greenslopes in the role of shadow health minister rather than the member for Miller, but obviously they do not.

This bill goes to the heart of what this LNP government is about. We are calmly and methodically ensuring that the services that Queenslanders need in the health and wellbeing portfolio are provided in a timely and efficient way. It complies with the request made by the QIMR themselves. It delivers a modern, accountable and transparent framework for the operation of QIMR, not just for the last 80 years but for the next 80 years and well into the future. More strength to their arm.

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

Motion Agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 10, as read, agreed to.

Clause 11—

 **Mr BAILEY** (7.42 pm): Clause 11 of the bill hands to the health minister alone the power to appoint all members of the QIMR Council. It removes the existing requirement for appointments to go to cabinet and the Governor in Council. This may sound like a small administrative change, but it is not. It cuts one of the most basic safeguards of transparency and accountability that apply in government. It is a very concerning precedent and another broken promise by Premier Crisafulli who promised transparency and openness if he was elected.

Almost every statutory body in Queensland requires cabinet consideration and Governor in Council approval for board appointments. That includes 16 HHS boards, the WorkCover Board, the Queensland Treasury Corporation Board, the Public Sector Governance Council, TAFE Queensland, Queensland Museum Board, Library Board, Art Gallery Board of Trustees, even Stadiums Queensland and Racing Queensland.

Clause 11 reduces transparency and accountability and weakens oversight and reduces confidence that these appointments are made based on merit rather than political interference. These are not ceremonial positions. The QIMR Council manages one of Queensland's most important scientific institutions. It governs invaluable assets, directs world-class medical research and controls how commercialised health discoveries are invested and shared. Its decisions influence the future of public health in this state and much further afield.

One only needs to think about the impact of Robert Kennedy and Donald Trump in the US on institutions and their governance to know how important governance is and that it needs to be protected, and that is what this opposition stands for. Why should the QIMR Council, of all bodies, be singled out for a potentially secretive, one-person process? There is no justification for that. It certainly is not about efficiency. It is about secrecy and cutting transparency and openness in government, from a government that is allergic to transparency. They hide reports, they gag parliamentary debates, they dodge questions, and now they want to cut accountability and transparency from an important statutory appointment process on one of our most important medical institutions.

We have already seen what happens when a government sidesteps proper appointment processes with the interference in the Chief Health Officer appointment earlier this year which showed exactly why transparency and accountability are important. This is a minister who is struggling. We know he is drowning, not waving, when it comes to administering his portfolio.

This clause 11 opens the door to risk for QIMR. That is why the opposition does not support it. It replaces a transparent appointment process with one that happens behind closed doors with no cabinet scrutiny and no Governor in Council record, and we will not be supporting it.

Mr NICHOLLS: If anything highlights the incompetence of those opposite it is that contribution by the member for Miller. The member for Miller has had weeks, months, to consider an amendment, to propose and to circulate an amendment in this place, and to debate and put forward his alternative—the Labor opposition's alternative. What have we just had? Three minutes of a repeat of what we have been listening to all afternoon. The lack of logic, the lack of consistency and the lack of any actual intellectual rigour.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I cannot take that interjection as the member is in the wrong seat.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that other interjection from the member for Bonney. The member proposes voting against clause 11 of the bill. So, what is the appointment process? We have to put something in the bill. How are you going to do it? Who is going to take it out and say, 'Well, we will have no appointment process.' Hello!

Mr O'Connor: The mangocube amendment.

Mr NICHOLLS: The mangocube amendment. Delete, delete, delete. I misled the House in question time earlier today when I answered the question. I said it was some hundreds of emails. I went back and checked. It was 50,000 emails! The mass deleter over there was going, 'No, no, no, no, no, no. They won't catch me on this one!' Bang, bang, bang, bang.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Minister for Health, I remind you to stay relevant to the bill. Thank you very much.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Here is the circumstance: if you vote against clause 11, you have to have something to replace it, otherwise there is no appointment process. We will have an organisation that turns over in the order of \$121 million a year, that employs over 1,000 people, that has commercial contracts with commercial providers, it has research contracts—I listed them in my second reading contribution—with research institutes not only here in Queensland but also in other states, and it has international obligations, yet the member for Miller proposes that we have no governing board. No governing board. He does not have an alternative. So, what would the member for Miller have us do? Ring up Gary Bullock and say, 'What are we going to do now, Gazza?'

Mrs Frecklington: Well, he wouldn't be emailing him.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, he would not be emailing him, that's for sure. If it was not so serious, it would be laughable, but the reality is it is pathetic. If there had been a proper amendment to the debate, we could debate it, but there is nothing like that here. We have pure political opportunism without a thought for how legislation in this state actually has to work. That is the obligation we have—to make it work—and the obligation on us is to listen to the stakeholders. There were four submitters to this bill. All four submitters supported the bill. I read the committee report. I spoke to Professor Sharma three times. He was one of the first people I met when I was appointed to this role. I went out and visited them. I spoke to the board. I spoke to him again when he was overseas and I spoke to him again when he returned from overseas.

His evidence was uncontroverted to the committee. Those over there did not question this particular arrangement regarding the appointment of the council members. Let me read Professor Fabienne Mackay's letter again—I read it earlier today. She wrote—

QIMR Berghofer supports the Bill's proposal to shift the responsibility for appointing and removing Council members from the Governor in Council to the Minister ... This reform brings several important benefits—

The professor then listed those reforms. We have consulted. We have listened. We have presented the bill to the House. There has been a proper committee process. Those who wanted to could have voted against the recommendation. They even could have come in here at the last moment. I remember in the last sitting week the hue and cry from over there about amendments being circulated when we moved amendments. They have done none of that. The most well resourced, most well paid and most lazy opposition cannot even amend one clause of one simple bill. It is laughable.

They ought not vote against clause 11 because, if they do, they will have to say how else the council will be appointed. No alternative has been offered. There needs to be an alternative to the process we have laid out here. In the absence of an alternative, QIMR Berghofer—an organisation worth \$120 million-plus a year and with 1,000 staff—would be unconstitutional. It would not be able to operate. It would be in breach of agreements. It is a farce. Obviously, we will be making sure clause 11 stays in the legislation.

Division: Question put—That clause 11, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 50:

LNP, 50—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, 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, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Krause, Miles.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 11, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 12 to 58, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (7.57 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (7.58 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

CORONERS (MINING AND RESOURCES CORONER) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 12 June (see p. 1733).

Second Reading

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (7.58 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025 delivers on the Crisafulli government's election commitment to ensure all mining related reportable deaths on Queensland's mine and quarry sites are thoroughly examined. This bill ensures lessons from these tragedies will inform future systems and practices, restoring a vital justice service for Queensland's most important resources sector.

At this juncture, I acknowledge all of the families and loved ones of those who are now deceased after terrible tragedies on our mine sites over the last many years. I thank the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines for his collaborative approach when working with me, the Department of Justice and his department in relation to the development of this bill.

This bill was introduced on 12 June 2025 and referred to the Primary Industries and Resources Committee for examination. The committee was ably chaired by the member for Burnett, and I thank him and his committee. The committee tabled its report on 15 August 2025. I do note a great deal of work goes into examining legislation, and I thank them for their diligent and very important work. I also acknowledge the contributions of organisations and individuals who made submissions or provided evidence during the inquiry.

The committee made two recommendations: first, that the bill be passed—a recommendation I wholeheartedly welcome; and, second, that the Department of Justice consider publishing information clarifying how suicide deaths, mine dust lung disease related deaths and deaths occurring during travel to and from a mining resources site would be investigated within the coronial framework and how those investigations intersect with existing regulatory powers. I now table the government response, which expresses support for this recommendation.

Tabled paper: Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 7, 58th Parliament—Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025, government response [\[1564\]](#).

I can confirm the Department of Justice will develop and publish information and other supporting material to provide clarity with respect to these issues. This will provide clear guidance and support the effective implementation of the reforms.

The bill realises the Crisafulli government's election commitment by establishing a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner who will investigate and conduct mandatory inquests for all—

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I did not hear the interjection by the shadow attorney.

Ms Scanlon: So why are you taking it?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I was hoping for the first time ever it may be relevant to the bill because this is a very important bill. We are talking about deaths on mine sites.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): I remind members on that side of the House to allow the Attorney-General to give her speech.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you. I repeat: the bill realises our government's commitment by establishing a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner who will investigate and conduct mandatory inquests for all mining related reportable deaths. Under the bill, a mining related reportable death requires three criteria to be established. These criteria are: the death was a violent or otherwise unnatural death, which means it is a reportable death under the Coroners Act 2003; the person died at any time after receiving a mining related injury that caused the death or contributed to the death and without which the person would not have died; and the mining related injury was received at a coalmine, a mine or a quarry, or at a specified petroleum and gas site while carrying out an activity that is related to the operation of a coalmine, mine or quarry, or specified petroleum and gas site. Through the establishment of the dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner, we are taking a significant step towards enhancing the safety and wellbeing of workers in this vital sector.

I would now like to address issues raised during the committee process. I acknowledge that many of these issues were echoed by the non-government members of the committee as part of their statement of reservation. However, as I will outline throughout my contribution, the approach taken in this bill gets the balance right by ensuring reportable deaths which occur on mine and quarry sites or at specified petroleum and gas sites are thoroughly examined.

The Mining and Resources Coroner will be a magistrate and local coroner appointed by Governor in Council. Like all coroners, they will bring extensive legal experience. The Mining and Resources Coroner will also have the capacity and powers to be able to conduct investigations into other reportable deaths, but their primary focus will be on mining related fatalities.

Through the establishment of the Mining and Resources Coroner, mining related coronial matters will be dealt with in a timely manner under the management of the Mining and Resources Coroner, meaning that these cases will be managed and investigated by a dedicated judicial officer. All investigations undertaken by the Mining and Resources Coroner will be informed by the investigations of police and other investigative bodies such as Resources Safety & Health Queensland, RSHQ, and the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor.

As the committee observes in its report, establishing the role of a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner will allow the appointed individual to develop significant industry knowledge and expertise and understanding of this vital sector. At the public hearing on the bill, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies made the following observations—

When you look quite deeply, the coroner is already addressing significant matters in the resources industry so he is already going to have the predisposition and the experience to look at those matters, as opposed to a separate coroner. If he is already dealing with other matters for coalmining ... he is going to have that experience and knowledge around the industry and he is going to have a deeper understanding of what is required to undertake that investigation, as opposed to a separate coroner.

In addition, the Mining and Resources Coroner will also have access to expert specialist and technical advice to ensure thorough and informed investigations.

The statement of reservation further notes that there is not a mechanism in place to limit a term of appointment for the Mining and Resources Coroner and that this approach differs from that of the State Coroner, who is appointed for a five-year term. Let me set the record straight on this issue. The approach taken in the bill for the term of appointment of the Mining and Resources Coroner is consistent with how local coroners are currently appointed under the Coroners Act. To be clear, local coroners do not have a fixed term of appointment. Comparisons to the State Coroner are not instructive or helpful. The State Coroner is the head of a jurisdiction and arrangements for the appointment of this position are tailored to this specific circumstance.

With respect to the process for removing the Mining and Resources Coroner, I note that the provisions of the Magistrates Act 1991 will apply as all coroners are first appointed as magistrates. I say that to help those opposite. This is entirely appropriate and consistent with the approach for all other coroners.

The Magistrates Act provides robust mechanisms for the removal of a magistrate, including where there is proper cause, such as where the magistrate is guilty of serious neglect in discharging their duties, convicted of an indictable offence, or mentally or physically incapable of carrying out the role. I wholeheartedly agree with the committee when it states that 'accountability in public appointments' needs 'to be of paramount importance'. This bill reflects the Crisafulli government's commitment to this objective.

Concerns were raised during the committee process regarding the exclusion of self-inflicted injuries from the scope of mandatory inquests to be undertaken by the Mining and Resources Coroner. Let me clarify: while suicide is not included in the scope of mandatory inquest, the bill does not remove the mandatory reporting and investigation of suicides.

Mr Smith: Did you read the submissions though why they believe it should be included?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Again, I repeat: the bill does not remove—

Mr Smith: So you don't take expert advice?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Again, I will repeat: the bill does not remove the mandatory reporting and investigation of suicides. These deaths remain reportable deaths under section 8 of the Coroners Act. I understand how difficult it is in opposition but you must do your research. Read the legislation. Read the Coroners Act—section 8 of the Coroners Act. As unnatural deaths, they must—must—be investigated.

It is anticipated that, in practice, the Mining and Resources Coroner will be able to investigate all reportable deaths on mine, coalmine and quarry sites and certain petroleum and gas sites. This is because the bill provides that the Mining and Resources Coroner is a coroner and has all the—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: If during an investigation the Mining and Resources Coroner determines that a death was intentionally self-inflicted, they may still conduct an inquest if it is in the public interest. Whether the death—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is hard for them, I know. Whether the death is determined to have been self-inflicted will depend on the facts and circumstances arising out of the investigation.

The State Coroner's Guidelines provide guidance to coroners on the assessment of whether a death was the result of an intentional self-inflicted injury; that is, there must be clear evidence for a finding of suicide to be made, and without it a finding of accident or an open verdict is the proper outcome. This means that all reportable deaths related to the mining and resources sector will be subject to a coronial investigation.

If it is determined on the evidence that the death was intentionally self-inflicted, the Mining and Resources Coroner may decide, under section 28 of the Coroners Act, to conduct an inquest if it is in the public interest. For example, the Mining and Resources Coroner may decide to hold an inquest if a death from a self-inflicted injury at a mine site accommodation is found to be linked with an operator's failure to meet safety and health obligations. I repeat again: the bill does not change the current process for dealing with these types of deaths. It provides a dedicated coroner to have oversight of mining related matters. This approach ensures that the Mining and Resources Coroner can focus on inquests—

Mr Smith interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for Bundaberg, I will ask you again not to keep interjecting.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—that improve the safety and health obligations of an operator rather than having a mandatory requirement to conduct inquests into deaths that may not be directly related and which may retraumatise family members.

Alongside the coronial framework, Queensland's resources safety and health legislation also requires resource industry obligation holders to manage psychosocial risks. Industry must identify, assess and implement controls to address these hazards and monitor their effectiveness just like any other risks. RSHQ provides guidance and oversight, including through industry education and engagement. RSHQ also operates a dedicated reporting system for Queensland resources workers and industry obligation holders to report and notify RSHQ of psychosocial incidents. Affected individuals or witnesses can also report incidents involving psychosocial hazards to RSHQ's dedicated team. Processes for responding to reports are designed to be trauma informed and person centred, prioritising safety, wellbeing and choice for workers through the process. The bill and the existing Coroners Act provides a robust framework through which suicides and other reportable deaths are investigated.

I will now turn to the consideration of latent onset diseases. The bill does not mandate inquests for latent onset diseases such as mine dust lung disease, as these conditions often manifest decades after exposure and are not typically classified as reportable deaths under the Coroners Act. This means they are not deaths which a coroner is required to investigate now. However, when a coroner is notified of a death, the facts surrounding that death are considered on a case-by-case basis to determine whether it is a reportable death. The State Coroner issues guidelines which are published and provide guidance to coroners on this issue. If it is determined that a death is reportable and there is a connection to the resources sector, the Mining and Resources Coroner will investigate the death and may conduct an inquest if it is in the public interest.

Coronial inquests seek to determine the cause and circumstances of a death and make recommendations and comments that relate to public health or safety, the administration of justice, or ways to prevent deaths from happening in similar circumstances in the future. There has already been considerable work undertaken to understand and prevent these deaths from occurring, particularly in the resources industry. RSHQ already has a strong focus on prevention and early detection of latent onset diseases through rigorous risk management, air monitoring, mandatory health surveillance and data analysis.

Since 1984, RSHQ has received reports of 685 workers diagnosed with mine dust lung disease. With reforms implemented since 2015 to ensure effective exposure controls are in place, the number of new cases is expected to decline over time. RSHQ continues to publish information on reported cases. Excuse me, I may just have to have a lozenge whilst I am trying to speak. I will now move to deaths that occur in transit.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, would you like to take a minute or so? We will just keep the clock paused for you.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I appreciate that, Madam Deputy Speaker; thank you. I now move to deaths that occur in transit. The bill does not alter the current process for investigating deaths that occur while travelling to or from mine sites. These deaths are generally reportable deaths and will therefore be investigated under the existing coronial framework. There may be a range of reasons for deaths to occur—I just have to take 30 seconds, I am sorry.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock, please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you; I will be fine. If the Mining and Resources Coroner investigating the death determines that the death is related to the safety obligations of a mining operator, for example, as a result of fatigue from excessive work hours, the coroner may conduct an inquest if it is in the public interest. Madam Deputy Speaker, am I able to get someone else to read the rest of my speech or can I incorporate?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will just take some advice. Pause the clock.

Mr Minnikin: Power on, get through it!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Any loss of life is a tragedy, and this bill ensures that every death connected to the mining and resources sector is treated with the seriousness it deserves. This bill is not just about justice for families; it is also about improving safety in one of Queensland's most critical industries.

As a result of an inquest, the Mining and Resources Coroner will make written findings that may include comments or recommendations about anything connected with a death, such as public health and safety matters or the administration of justice. Importantly, the aim of these findings is to inform systems changes with the view of preventing future fatalities. Findings will be transparent and publicly available to ensure accountability across the mining and resources sector. For recommendations directed at government agencies, the Department of Justice will request and publish responses to the recommendations as well as implementation updates.

Importantly, as part of the bill, and to ensure the families of the deceased are supported through the coronial investigations and inquests, a family liaison officer will be established within the Coroners Court of Queensland. The coronial process is, and can be, a difficult time for families, and, while the court-based family liaison officer will be available to assist, families may still choose not to be involved. The family liaison role will provide engagement throughout the coronial investigation and inquest process and act as a direct point of contact for families and agencies.

The bill also makes minor amendments to the Coroners Act to achieve greater efficiencies in the broader coronial system. The amendments will allow for the appointment of more than one deputy state coroner and enable preliminary examinations to occur after a death has been reported to a coroner, rather than limiting them to cases reported by police officers.

This bill is another example of our government delivering on what we said we were going to do. Labor put the safety of workers on the line when they axed and disbanded the former mining warden's court in 2001. The Crisafulli government is making safety a priority with the establishment of the Mining and Resources Coroner. This bill will be another vital boost to our courts as we deliver on our promise of faster access to justice. It is about more than just upholding the government's commitment to prioritising the safety of Queenslanders working in our mining and resources sector; it is also about listening to the voices of the families who called for greater support, transparency and accountability.

Through this bill, we are ensuring that every mining related death is treated with the seriousness it deserves. We are restoring a vital layer of accountability for the resources sector and taking meaningful steps to prevent future tragedies. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (8.20 pm): I rise to speak on the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025—a bill that in its current form represents yet another broken promise dressed up as reform. The Attorney-General has again made her contribution with her trademark condescension—the smirk, the sneer, the little digs that try to—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I take personal offence and I ask the shadow minister to withdraw.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw. The Attorney-General should not pretend she is mocking me; she is actually mocking the experts—the Queensland Law Society, the Coronial Assistance Legal Service, the Mining & Energy Union and even industry bodies such as the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies. Every one of those organisations told the parliamentary committee that this bill did not go far enough, yet we just heard from the Attorney-General that she has allegedly listened to everyone. That is not what we have seen with the bill before this House. Those experts were not subtle about their recommendations. Labor will be moving amendments to address these concerns. I table a copy of those amendments, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights in my name.

Tabled paper: Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025, amendments to be moved by Hon. Meaghan Scanlon MP [\[1565\]](#).

Tabled paper: Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendments [\[1566\]](#).

Tabled paper: Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendments [\[1567\]](#).

Labor has a strong record of standing up for working Queenslanders, while the record of those opposite was to vote against things like labour licensing laws, paid domestic and family violence leave and industrial manslaughter. They voted against industrial protections for workers subject to sexual harassment and sex-based and gender-based harassment, they voted against portable long service leave laws for community service workers, and they voted against the wage theft inquiry which led to wage theft becoming a criminal offence in this state. No doubt those opposite will show their true colours and vote against our sensible amendments yet again.

Mr Head: You had 10 years.

Ms SCANLON: The government went to the election promising to re-establish a mining warden's court. I take the interjection from the member for Callide. That is what they all went to the election saying—that they were going to establish a mining warden's court. That is not what this bill does. Instead, what we have is a Mining and Resources Coroner whose powers are so limited that, by the department's own evidence, they will investigate only two to four deaths per year—I repeat: two to four—when a typical coroner carries 200 to 300 cases at any one time. That means the specialist Mining and Resources Coroner will touch perhaps one to two per cent of the real deaths connected to this industry. The rest will simply fall outside the scope. Suicides, road crashes and occupational illnesses are all deemed too inconvenient for the government's announcement and headlines. It is a mining coroner in name only.

While Labor supports giving the Coroners Court the resources it needs, the government should not be able to come in here and pretend that this narrow bill honours their own commitment—because, let's be honest, this bill has been written to look like progress while avoiding responsibility. I will begin with the government's refusal to confront suicide in the resources sector. In evidence to the committee, Ms Klaire Coles from the Coronial Assistance Legal Service said—

Suicides amongst FIFO and resource sector workers occur at disproportionately higher rates and often in complex environments shaped by isolation, stigma and work related pressures.

That single sentence should stop this House in its tracks because it exposes a truth that too many on the other side would rather ignore—that the mental health crisis in our mining communities is not some private matter; it is a workplace safety issue every bit as real as a roof fall or an explosion.

The Mining & Energy Union told the committee the same thing. Their representative, Mr Hughes, said that he had personally dealt with several suicides in camps in towns like Moranbah and that 'in both those circumstances it was because of the workplace culture'. The names of these men and women are etched into the memories of their workmates, not the government's press releases. Mates in Mining revealed that suicide rates are 80 per cent higher in the mining and construction and energy sectors than in the general population—that is roughly 190 people a year—yet this bill explicitly excludes suicide from the Mining and Resources Coroner's jurisdiction. Think about that. This is a bill that was created allegedly to examine causes of death in the mining and resources industry. We heard from the Attorney-General that it is apparently to keep workers safe, yet the government's own explanatory notes excludes 'an injury that a person has intentionally self-inflicted i.e. suicide'.

The Coronial Assistance Legal Service called that exclusion 'a missed opportunity', warning it 'risks obscuring systemic issues and undermines the preventive focus of the coronial system'. The Queensland Law Society—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take again the condescending remarks from the Attorney-General about the Queensland Law Society.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I take offence at those statements and I ask her to withdraw.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw. The Queensland Law Society said—

Mrs Frecklington: It's not schoolgirl politics now.

Ms SCANLON: I suggest the Attorney-General listens. The Queensland Law Society said—

We are aware other submitters have objected to deaths by suicide being expressly omitted by the bill. The QLS agrees there is a public interest in bringing these deaths within scope in appropriate circumstances, noting the psychosocial hazards in the workplace are increasingly being exposed and examined.

Even the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies, representing industry itself, told the committee—

The term 'suicide' is currently excluded. AMEC recommends that the use of this term be reviewed, as it is at odds with the intention of the coronial inquiry to determine the cause of death.

When unions, lawyers, coronial experts and industry are all saying the same thing and the only people disagreeing are those opposite, you know the ideology has trumped evidence. Even the LNP chair, the member for Burnett, asked—

I have a question with the emphasis on this unfortunate issue of suicide within our community, particularly in the mining sector, and the work and the advocacy that has been around. Has it been prevalent that people have been pushing for this issue to be included as a reportable incident?

He asked that question, to which Ms Dickson, the Queensland director of the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies, said—

There has been an increased focus on psychosocial safety and recognition that that is a significant part that leads to unnatural deaths.

The association went on to say—

In our submission we provided two very clear examples suspected suicide and unnatural death directly within the industry. Both of them were in circumstances where I was working in the industry, so I was highly aware of them. I think they really demonstrate why we think this is an important matter that should be included.

The LNP committee members ignored their ask. When the bill says that the Mining and Resources Coroner may only act where a death is not intentionally self-inflicted, the government is legislating a blindfold. It is telling coroners to look away from the hardest truths.

Psychosocial safety deserves the same status as physical safety. A worker crushed by a haul truck and a worker crushed by despair both deserve justice, learning and change. Instead of listening to the families and experts who work in the mining industry, the LNP bizarrely said, 'We're not going to duplicate work that's already undertaken by agencies like the Queensland Police Service.' Clearly they have no idea how the coronial system actually works.

Our coronial system exists precisely to look beyond individual incidents and identify patterns to prevent the next tragedy, not just record the last. When you exclude suicides from that process, you are not avoiding duplication; you are avoiding accountability. Mining culture is tough, proud and stoic, but too often it is silent. We all know the image of the miner: hard hat, dust covered boots and a quiet resilience. What we do not see is the invisible injuries: the anxiety before a shift, the loneliness of a donga room, the pressure of job insecurity and the toll of separation from family week after week. Mr Hill from the Mining & Energy Union told the committee—

The rate of workers compensation around psychosocial injuries is well above physical injuries ...

He explained—

... psychosocial issues of people being isolated and the employment arrangements of contractors and labour hire put extra pressure on people. ... All these little things add up to create big psychosocial injuries that lead to suicides.

That is not political rhetoric; that is the lived experience from the coalface. What I cannot understand is why the LNP would create a specialist mining and resources coroner and then legislate that they not consider the psychosocial factors that drive mining related suicides. This narrow definition of safety ignores reality. It ignores the culture of the camps, the isolation, the long rosters and the 12-hour nights that blur into one another.

I have seen comments by the members for Mackay and Mirani, who have tried to defend this exclusion, just recommending that the department publish information clarifying how suicide deaths would be investigated within the existing coronial framework. Firstly, the members are essentially saying, 'Leave the system as it is,' so I am not sure how they can say that and then criticise the Labor opposition. Secondly, the comments failed to acknowledge the point that was made by the department and the submitters that such fatalities under the scope of this bill would need to be in the 'public interest' to be treated the same way as other mine related reportable deaths, which are not required to meet that same test. If we are establishing a specialised mining coroner then why, given the number of suicides by mineworkers and the department's admission that only one to two per cent of the mining coroner's work will be taken up by mine and resource related fatalities, have suicides—which represent a large number of those fatalities—been excluded, because that is what this bill does? If this government really believed in safety, it would not sanitise the law to exclude the human cost of its own industrial model.

Psychosocial safety is mining safety. Fatigue, stress and depression kill just as surely as machinery failure. If this parliament is going to create a dedicated mining commissioner then it ought to do it properly. Then there are the deaths that do not happen overnight—the slow, suffocating ones. The bill before us excludes diseases and illnesses caused by work in the mining and resources sector. That means conditions like coal worker's pneumoconiosis, silicosis and other dust lung diseases. Fatal illnesses directly linked to exposure are outside the Mining and Resources Coroner's reach. How can a coroner charged with improving safety ignore the diseases that take years to kill the men and women who dig up our minerals and power our state? The Queensland Law Society told the committee this approach is inconsistent with the entire purpose of the legislation. Their submission stated—

If there is a possible causal link between the death and the 'in scope' work activity, the death should be treated in the same way as if it resulted from a physical incident causing death and be referred to the—

Mining and Resources Coroner. They went further, saying—

Deaths occurring from an illness or disease caused by mining and other related work will not result in a mandatory referral to the—

Mining and Resources Coroner. It goes on—

This exclusion contradicts the intent of these reforms.

They are not my words; they are the words, as I said, of the Queensland Law Society, and they are right. The intent of any coronial reform in the resources sector should be to prevent further harm. How can we prevent what we refuse to examine?

What I found particularly bizarre were the comments in the media by the member for Mackay when the Labor opposition announced our amendments. The LNP doubled down on the committee's recommendation that the department consider publishing information clarifying how mine dust lung disease related deaths would be investigated within the coronial framework. I know that the member for Mackay was in the committee hearings. The department's evidence was very clear that the State Coroner's guidelines state—

By convention, diseases due to the longstanding effects of repeated or relatively low-level exposure to chemicals are generally not regarded as unnatural.

That was said during the committee process, so he knows that the guidelines outline that those matters are not deemed to be within scope. This omission is not just technical; it tells every miner with damaged lungs that their suffering is not the kind of death the LNP wants to count. Every worker who has drawn a laboured breath because of mine dust deserves to be seen by the justice system, not hidden behind definitional lines.

Queenslanders still remember when Labor stood up and created Resources Safety & Health Queensland in 2020 because we knew miners deserved an independent safety body, not one controlled by industry interests. The same principle applies here. The Mining and Resources Coroner should be empowered to look wherever the evidence leads, from immediate accidents to diseases that are decades in the making. The government's refusal to do so shows this bill is not about safety; it is about spin.

The next glaring omission in this bill concerns travel. Anyone who has driven long stretches between Mackay and Moranbah knows the danger: shiftworkers finishing a 12-hour night drive home on narrow regional roads, often after days of heat and dust, their concentration drained and eyelids heavy. It is one of the most predictable and preventable risks in the industry and yet this government has deliberately excluded road deaths from the scope of the Mining and Resources Coroner. At the public hearing the member for Mirani, Mr Glen Kelly, spoke plainly about what his own constituents face, saying—

Fatigue is a big issue for a lot of my constituents in Mirani. ... whether they can drive home straight after they finish their stint or they need to rest before getting on the road ...

He is right: fatigue does kill. Every roster change and every extra hour demanded of a tired worker magnifies that risk. The member for Mackay went further, asking the witnesses—

How would you react to the mining coroner looking at suicides within the mining camp and also to and from work—say, a single-vehicle crash?

The Coronial Legal Service, represented by Ms Coles, did not hesitate in responding. She said—

We think suicides within the mining camp should be included within the jurisdiction, because, effectively, people are being required to stay in that place in order to perform their work in the mining sector. ... we would also support the submissions that we have seen made by the Queensland Law Society and other submitters about motor vehicle accidents which occur on public roads but relate to people travelling to or from a mining site. I think it is well recognised that issues like fatigue and other work related pressures can have some influence on that kind of accident which would be of benefit for the mining coroner to review.

Even the AMEC Queensland director told the committee about some of the key issues, particularly in exploration, being drive-in drive-out work and travelling to and from work and issues around fatigue and suicide. Once again every expert—union, lawyer, coroner's advocate—said to include travel. The only people saying exclude it sit on the government benches. The Mining & Energy Union put it starkly, saying—

If we are looking at fatalities in the mining industry, road deaths would be miles above the fatalities that happen onsite.

That is an extraordinary omission. The greatest risk to life in the sector is not explosions or roof collapses; it is the long drive home. These workers are not careless; they are exhausted. They have just worked a 10-, 12- or sometimes 14-hour shift, away from their family, and then face driving hundreds of kilometres under pressure to make it home in time for the next rotation, yet this government says these deaths are out of scope. The whole point of creating a mining and resources coroner was to ensure someone with industry knowledge—and ideally expertise—could connect the dots to see how roster design, fatigue management and long-distance commuting combine to create lethal conditions. How can the coroner do that if the law excludes these as reportable deaths?

Here is the irony: the member for Mirani, one of the LNP's own, made the same case in the committee. He said—

This is an important issue for my constituents, especially given the quality of some of the roads to our mines in that country.

However, his government has ignored him too. This is what happens when legislation is drafted to satisfy a headline rather than actually solve the problem. The government could have written a bill that saves lives. Instead, it wrote one that saves face. When you step back, you see the pattern. This bill was sold as a bold step forward for safety in the resources sector—the fulfilment, apparently, of an election promise, proof that the LNP understood the dangers miners face—but the evidence tells a very different story. If fatalities from suicide, road death and dust disease are excluded under the law established for this so-called 'specialist coroner', then why are we naming this position a 'Mining and Resources Coroner'? With regard to a handful of tragic accidents a year, that is not a safety system; that is a symbolic gesture. The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies said that the—

... inclusion of ... suicide ... is important for the mining and mineral exploration industry.

The Law Society, which is usually cautious in its language, warned that the—

... optional referral system will create undue uncertainty and delay ...

In other words, even the legal profession thinks the structure will add confusion and not clarity. The Coronial Legal Service—the very organisation that literally supports grieving families through inquests—called this—

... a missed opportunity for the specialist knowledge and jurisdiction of the Mining and Resources Coroner to be applied to all deaths that occur on a mining site ...

This is not about opposing extra resources for the Coroners Court. We of course support that. What the government has delivered is a headline that reads 'LNP delivers mining coroner', but under the limited scope we hold concerns that miners in Moranbah, Dysart or Emerald will not feel any safer because of it. When Labor was in government we created Resources Safety & Health Queensland—an independent body focused on prevention, enforcement and education. We strengthened the law after the Moura, Box Flat and Grosvenor tragedies. We did not pretend symbolism could substitute for substance.

The government had a chance to write legislation that could change lives. At the heart of this, this bill exposes the difference between Labor and the LNP. Labor believes every Queenslanders has the right to feel safe and to be safe at work. That is not a slogan; it is a value that runs deep through everything we do. That is why we established RSHQ in 2020. That is why we strengthened workplace safety laws, empowered unions and investigators and funded mental health programs in mining communities, because we know that safety is not optional; it is fundamental. The LNP, by contrast, talks a big game about cutting red tape.

Mr Last: Then why did you back in the CFMEU?

Ms SCANLON: It would be good if the member understood the union movement given the member's interjection. There is the MEU, which represents mining workers, so I suggest the member looks at the coverage. The LNP, by contrast, talks a big game about cutting red tape, but what it has really done here is cut compassion out of the process. It has designed a Mining and Resources Coroner who will deal with only two to four cases a year—one per cent to two per cent of mining related deaths.

It has excluded suicides, excluded road deaths and excluded occupational diseases. The Queensland Law Society said—

If there is a possible causal link between the death and the 'in scope' work activity, the death should be treated in the same way ... and be referred to the MRC.

The Coronial Assistance Legal Service said—

Suicides in mining are a contemporary societal and industrial issue that should be proactively addressed by the Act.

Even industry representatives such as Kate Dickson, the head of national operations and Queensland director of the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies, talked of one of the key issues being drive-in drive-out aspects of exploration. When asked if travelling to and from work should be included, the head of the industry association gave a clear response, and that was yes. Every one of them, from workers' representatives to lawyers to the mining companies themselves, told the government the same thing: this bill does not go far enough—but those opposite did not listen because for them consultation is not about listening; it is about ticking boxes.

This bill is ultimately a broken promise and a missed opportunity. The government, as has been outlined, promised a mining warden's court. Instead, it delivered a limited coroners role. Labor will not oppose additional resources for the coronial system, but we will not stand silently while the government pretends that half-measured reforms are sufficient in terms of what the government actually promised at the election, because when it comes to safety near enough is not good enough. This parliament has a moral responsibility to honour the lives of those who have been lost—the miners who never came home, the families who still wait for answers and the communities which continue to carry grief. They deserve more than symbolism. Labor will always be on the side of workers who build this state. We will always stand up for the right for workers to come home.

If the Attorney-General truly believes that this bill delivers what Queenslanders were promised, she should explain to the families of those who have died from silicosis why their loved ones do not count under this bill. She should explain to the widows of miners who have taken their own lives why those deaths are out of scope. She should explain to the shiftworkers driving home in the dark why fatigue failures are not worthy of consideration by the mining coroner, because until she can answer those questions this bill remains a monument to denial, not a blueprint for safety. Labor stands with workers, we stand with families, we stand with experts who told this government the truth and we will continue to fight for a system that values every life, not just the ones that fit the press release, because in Queensland the measure of a government is not how many headlines it writes; it is how many lives it protects.

On that measure, we believe that this bill fails and we hope the government will do the right thing and accept our amendments. Frankly, with all of the resources of government, if those opposite have other amendments that they wish to put forward we are always willing to work with the government. Unfortunately, so far the Attorney-General has not, in my view and in the view of the Labor opposition, adequately responded to all of the concerns that those stakeholders put forward through the committee process.

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (8.46 pm): I rise to contribute to debate on the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. I say at the outset that this bill means a lot to me. It means a lot to me because I made a commitment to the families of those miners who lost their lives in Queensland mines and quarries to provide answers. It took its roots at the Moranbah miners' memorial service many years ago where I witnessed firsthand the grief these families were still going through in their quest for answers. We need look no further than the case involving Bradley Hardwick, who lost his life on 20 February 2019 at Moranbah North, and here we are six years and eight months later waiting for a coroner's inquest, and that is not good enough. That question—when are our fallen coalminers and their families going to get justice—gets answered today.

I find it symbolic that we debate this bill on the 50th anniversary of the Kiangra No. 1 mine disaster. As a result of that disaster we saw improved safety regulations for a range of activities, and those improved safety regulations were born from the warden's inquiry in Rockhampton between 10 and 24 November way back in 1975. The role of the Mining and Resources Coroner is based on one of the responsibilities of the mining warden, and that is to undertake mandatory coronial investigations and inquests into all accidental mining related deaths which will include deaths that occur on mines, coalmines and quarries as well as particular sites where petroleum and gasworks are carried out.

The role of the Mining and Resources Coroner is strikingly similar to the mining warden because the mining warden system worked, and members do not have to take my word for it. A paper presented at the 2006 Queensland Mining Industry Health and Safety Conference in Townsville described the advances in safety resulting from the mining warden's court as 'too numerous to mention'. In a media statement dated 11 May 2020, Labor's own then minister for natural resources and mines referred to mining warden's inquiries as recommending—

... safety measures that still protect mine workers today and that have no doubt prevented further incidents and saved lives over the past two decades.

It was some three months later that Labor knew the board of inquiry into the incident at Grosvenor mine was flawed. It knew because in the interim report Labor was asked to amend legislation to ensure—

... that whilst a witness' right to claim privilege against self-incrimination is maintained, the Board also has the power to compel the witness to provide all relevant evidence in public at the Inquiry.

What did Labor's minister actually do? He did nothing. Despite repeated requests for an explanation, those opposite failed to address a direct request from Terry Martin SC that was made to get to the truth of what happened. Labor's failure to compel witnesses went even further. The parents of Gareth Dodunski, Phil and Michelle, spent 10 long years seeking answers. When addressing the delay in delivering his findings, coroner MacKenzie cited a loss of important evidence as a direct consequence of the absence of the power to compel witnesses. There are some simple questions to answer: how can we provide answers to families; how can we improve safety; and how can we reduce the chance of a similar incident occurring? Those questions remain unanswered when a government fails to act. Contrast that directly with the Crisafulli government's action. The Mining and Resources Coroner, appointed as both a magistrate and a coroner, can compel witnesses to answer questions under oath while also ensuring witnesses can claim privilege against self-incrimination, just as they can in any other court case.

I want to address some of the inaccuracies that, unfortunately, have been spread about the Mining and Resources Coroner. Firstly, some allege that the introduction of the Mining and Resources Coroner would prevent criminal charges being laid—nothing could be further from the truth. As per page 1 of the committee's report, the Mining and Resources Coroner's inquiry can only begin after the finalisation of any criminal prosecution, but to ensure timeliness the coroner may hold pre-inquest conferences while criminal proceedings are underway.

The other inaccuracy that must be addressed is duplication. As per the committee's report, 27 deaths on mine sites were investigated between 2014 and 2024 but only two of those deaths were the subject of coronial inquests. Families and resource workers deserve answers; they deserve the truth. Under the current arrangements, a coroner may conduct an inquest into a death on a mine site or quarry if it is in the public interest. This bill means that every work-related death on a mine site or quarry will be the subject of a coronial inquiry. To any member opposed to this bill I ask these simple questions: what information have we missed under the current system; how many incidents could have been prevented if any work-related death was subjected to an inquest; and, most importantly, how many lives could have been saved? Sadly, we will never know the answers to those questions and neither will the families of those who died.

I want to acknowledge in my contribution the advocacy of industry stalwarts Scott Leggett, Mark Parcell, Stuart Vaccaneo and Dr Ray Parkin in the formulation of this bill. Their knowledge, commitment to mine safety and passion for ongoing health and safety improvements in the resource sector is commendable and I know they will be relieved when this bill is passed today. I also want to place on record my appreciation for the work undertaken by Frank Windridge, Queensland's final mining warden. It was Frank who inquired into the 1994 Moura coalmine disaster that resulted in the tragic death of 11 men. Frank's report into that disaster is a comprehensive assessment of what happened and what needed to happen to prevent a similar incident. It also contains Frank's observations on the role of the government when it comes to safety in the resources sector. He said that governments 'have a duty to ensure that mining is carried out in as safe a manner as possible,' and, more pointedly, he added that 'governments have no moral right to walk away when a disaster happens and decline to accept any responsibility. They are, by association and legislation, clearly involved.'

The Crisafulli LNP government has heeded Frank Windridge's words. This bill ensures the truth and that lessons are learned because that is the moral thing to do. While the shadow minister claims that most in the industry did not think this was a good idea, the fact is that the Mining & Energy Union called for the Mining and Resources Coroner's role to be expanded. The Labor members of the committee followed suit, saying in their statement of reservation that they believe 'the Mining and Resources Coroner must be all encompassing of mining-related deaths'. They went on to say Labor

won't stand in the way because of the need for 'continued updates and improvements to safety measures and the systems that enforce them'. This bill ensures we establish the truth and that the truth is put on the public record while also ensuring, where appropriate, criminal charges can be laid in compliance with current legislation. The recommendations and findings by the resources coroner will have the full weight and authority of the judicial system, as it should.

This bill unapologetically enhances the scrutiny of the resources sector to improve safety. At the 2021 Miners' Memorial in Moranbah, Scott Leggett summed up why this process is so crucial when it comes to safety when he said, 'The only way to truly say we have achieved this is when we don't add another name to the sandstone blocks before us.' If we are to learn and continue to raise the bar when it comes to mine safety in this state, then we need to be transparent. We need a system in place that delivers answers. We need a system in place that gets to the bottom of why that fatality occurred at that particular site. We need a system in place that means any recommendations that fall out of that inquest can be acted upon because that is how we improve mine safety in Queensland. That is how we continue to raise the bar in this state.

It is why we need to have a coroner that can give answers to families like the Hardwick family, who are still waiting some six years after their loved one died at a mine site for answers and who every year at the Miners' Memorial in Moranbah ask the question: when will I know? When will I know what happened to my husband, to my father, or when will we get some answers so that we can finally get some closure?

This bill is long overdue. I know those opposite have come in here tonight and are somehow making out that they are all of a sudden interested in mining safety when I have been calling for this for years. Finally, we are doing something about it. The LNP in Queensland are putting mine safety first and foremost in this state.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (8.56 pm): After the last sitting I travelled to Moura for the 50th anniversary of the Kiangra Mine disaster. After the event, which was very moving, I drove down to the site which is directly above where those 13 men died. There I met two brothers and two nephews. They were the brothers of Murray Martin, who died in that accident in 1975. The two brothers loved their brother deeply. The two nephews never got to know him. I did not know Murray either, but I want to do him justice by giving perspective to this bill and correct some of the things that have been said. It is a bill that gives the coroner a new name and title and a requirement to examine a minority of deaths in the mining industry, but it stops the majority of deaths being examined by this coroner.

To understand this bill we need to understand where it comes from, and it is vital to understand where it came from. Firstly, Minister Last fulsomely promised a restoration of what he called the mining warden's court. He said as late as October 2024—and I table the press release—that he would be re-establishing and even increasing the powers of the mining warden's court.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 11 October 2024, by the member for Burdekin, Hon. Dale Last MP, titled 'LNP to deliver Mining Warden's Court' [[1568](#)].

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 15 October 2024, by the member for Nanango, Hon. Deb Frecklington MP, titled 'LNP to deliver Mining Warden's Court' [[1569](#)].

Tabled paper: Article from *iQ Industry News*, dated 11 October 2024, titled 'LNP plan to bring back Mining Warden' [[1570](#)].

Indeed, the LNP put out press releases saying they planned to bring back the warden's court and it was not just Minister Last. The then shadow attorney-general, now Attorney-General, promised the LNP would deliver the mining warden's court. There are 128 references to the warden's court in previous acts, and I have a copy here for any of those on the other side who want to see it, but none of them mention anything to do with this bill. They did say that the mining warden's court would do: dispute resolution—not in this bill; recommendations to the minister—not in this bill; investigations on reports the minister asked them to do—not in this bill; it would have a court jurisdiction separate to other courts—not part of this bill. The question is: why did the minister go around promising a mining warden's court and what happened to that promise?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, is the warden's court relevant to this bill?

Mr POWER: For your benefit, Mr Deputy Speaker, the greens say that the Queensland government made a commitment at the election to re-establish and increase the powers of the mining warden's court.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Mr POWER: Of course, there is no mining warden's court in this bill. You are right to question what it has to do with this bill. The Deputy Speaker, in fact, made my point. Apart from it being mentioned in the greens, it is not actually part of this bill; it is a broken promise.

When the Mining & Energy Union and the Australian Workers' Union came out and said that re-establishing the warden's court would be a backward step, even the peak bodies in the mining industry said it would be crazy to tear up the Land Court and restore the warden's court which had been criticised since the 1990s.

Those opposite promised that families would get quicker investigations. I will not mention the details of Bradley Hardwick's case. I have extraordinary compassion for his family. The minister is just plain wrong and falsely promising if he thinks this will be any quicker. It is still before the courts. He should not have mentioned it because it is sub judice. He should know, because he has already said it publicly, that the Coroners Court cannot examine it until those matters are finished. He is misleading this family if he says this bill will actually do it any quicker.

Debate, on motion of Mr Power, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.00 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Ipswich, Roads and Transport Infrastructure



Ms MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (9.00 pm): He came, he saw, he said nothing! That is the only way to describe the recent visit to Ipswich of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The appearance by the minister at a Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce breakfast event was touted as an important opportunity to ask all the questions and get key updates on key transport projects for our region.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Ms MULLEN: Instead, our businesses and the broader community were left scratching their heads as the minister could give very little detail or information on the critical transport projects for our community. We did at least get an acknowledgement from him that the Ipswich-West Moreton region was one of the fastest growing areas in the state. The Centenary Motorway remains one of our most important transport corridors, and when we were in government we progressed significant planning and committed construction funding to upgrade the highway.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Buderim, the member is not taking your interjections.

Ms MULLEN: Under Labor we saw the completion of the \$15 million Centenary Highway-Logan Motorway interchange upgrade, the \$80 million Sumners Road interchange upgrade, the \$6.5 million exit 32 upgrade and the \$298.5 million Centenary Bridge upgrade, now under construction. We committed funds to progress key planning for the Darra to Yamanto section of the highway—so important for our Ipswich communities in Greater Springfield, Redbank Plains, White Rock, Ripley Valley, Deebling Heights and Yamanto.

TMR has acknowledged that upgrading that section between exits 31 and 33 in Springfield is a priority, but since the LNP came into power any momentum for this project has simply disappeared. The corridor preservation work—the first important step in the upgrade—was funded and substantially completed by the previous Labor government. The minister's comments at the breakfast said it all—frankly, that the detailed design and planning work for this section is a ways off yet. What a deeply disappointing response, but hardly surprising. We were advised by TMR that this planning would be progressed, but the LNP's first budget and QTRIP has seen no funding allocated or confirmed to continue this work.

The disappointment did not end there. When pressed on the Amberley interchange, the response was equally lacklustre, with the minister confirming that the solutions were not easy and there was no timeline for a start of the work. On the Bremer River Bridge, westbound on the Warrego Highway, the minister gave the most bureaucratic response ever when he said—

We are continuing that analysis. We are establishing the problem in a more detailed sense and developing a solution to deliver it. That work is ongoing.

What? On the Ipswich City second river crossing, we heard crickets. There was barely a mention of the Warrego Highway and Mount Crosby overpass.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on both sides, the member is not taking interjections.

Ms MULLEN: In relation to the Ipswich to Springfield rail line, the minister literally came out to Springfield to effectively reannounce funding that was already secured in Labor's 2023-24 budget and to announce that he would make an announcement in the future, which really begs the question: why did the main roads minister even turn up?

Redlands Electorate, Projects; Palm, Ms K

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (9.04 pm): I have proudly stood in this place for almost a year now, and what a year it has been. When I was elected I promised delivery, not just announcements, and that is exactly what we have done. We are making life easier for Redlanders living on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. The 50 per cent vehicle ferry subsidy is locked in. The new bay islands car-share subsidy is ready to launch and I will announce the start date soon. I thank the minister for assisting with those subsidies.

We have secured the multistorey car park at Weinam Creek. I fought to move that project into Economic Development Queensland so locals can finally get a properly planned facility. We are fixing planning across Redlands. We are not dictating from Brisbane but are working with local councils and community. The Southern Thornlands PDA is proof of that. It was the first PDA called by this government and it is progressing with proper consultation—not working over the top of it. With the Deputy Premier's support, Labor's Broadwater Terrace SFD approval was stopped because it bulldozed council planning and ignored the Redland Bay community.

We are not just planning homes; we are also delivering the infrastructure to support them. In tranche 1 of the Residential Activation Fund, Redlands was provided \$4.3 million in trunk infrastructure to unlock 90 new homes for local families. I urge council and local developers to get moving on tranche 2. Alongside housing, we are properly planning roads. Stage 1 of the Cleveland-Redland Bay Road upgrade is complete under the Crisafulli government, and I am determined that stage 2 will not repeat past mistakes. That is why I formed the Redlands Road Advisory Committee, the RRAC, bringing community, expert voices and experts directly to the table because in Redlands we plan with people and not for them.

We are also futureproofing Redlands. Our government has secured a legacy plan for the 2032 Olympics with transport upgrades and investment around the Redlands Whitewater Centre, ensuring long-term benefits beyond the games. Today I thank the people of Redlands. We have made a strong start and I promise you that we are only getting started.

I will mention just one more matter while I am on my feet. I acknowledge Mental Health Month and Katie Palm. Last Tuesday I was honoured to emcee Katie's event to shine a light on mental health. Katie is a Redlands mum who is using her miscarriage tragedy and challenging cancer journey to help shine a light on mental health for others in her community. Katie, you are one of the strongest women I have ever met. It was an honour and a privilege to support you on that day. Thank you so much for everything you do for Redlands.

Forgotten Women: Live Like Her Challenge

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (9.07 pm): Last month I participated in the Forgotten Women: Live Like Her Challenge when I spent a night sleeping in my car in solidarity with the many forgotten women aged over 55 from across our community who will be doing the same thing tonight and every night. Women over the age of 55 are the fastest growing homeless population in Australia. Tonight across Brisbane and the Gold Coast, more than 1,000 of those women will sleep rough in cars, couch surfing or on the street, alone and in many cases unsafe but in all cases vulnerable. They are the women who have spent years caring for others. They are our grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters and friends who spent much of their lives looking after families and often stepping out of paid work to care for others. They have little superannuation because compulsory superannuation only came into force in 1992, because equal pay was not granted until 1969 and because between 1940 and 1960 women made up just 25 per cent of the workforce.

When local financial broker Cara Haynes, who owns Loan Market in Wavell Heights in my electorate, approached me and asked me to join her team to shine a light on and lift up the plight of women who spent their lives lifting us up, I could only say yes. When I told my family what I was doing, my 11-year-old son, Ollie, was so deeply moved that his mum would be sleeping alone in a car—that

anyone's mum could be alone and forced to sleep in their car—that he came too. While Ollie and I and over 400 others spent a cold and uncomfortable night, we knew it was for only one night. However, for 1,000 women tonight and every night is no awareness challenge; it is their life.

The mission of the Forgotten Women's project is simple: to provide fit-for-purpose housing for homeless women aged over 55, with individually tailored support whether in a safe home built and managed by the project or through the provision of rental subsidies to keep women in safe and stable housing. The work of the Forgotten Women's project is literally life-changing and life-saving because every woman deserves to live with dignity and age safely in place.

Homelessness is a problem that goes beyond 'rooflessness' and a lack of access to safe shelter. It includes vulnerable people living in refuges, crisis accommodation or temporary housing. It is a problem made worse by the LNP having changed the rules to make it harder for people experiencing homelessness to get help and accommodation. This was a recent change made by the government. By changing the guidelines, only people on the social housing waitlist can be offered emergency accommodation. This means that two pensioners who might sleep in a tent or a single mum working full-time on the minimum wage with two sleeping in her car would not be eligible. Every Queenslanders deserves to live with dignity, and tonight there are too many not able to do so.

Burleigh, Community Safety

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (9.10 pm): I learned a lot from my father. One of the phrases he would often turn out when I presented him with a challenge, maybe something I encountered at school or in the workplace, was: never attribute to malice what can be best explained by stupidity. I think the greater sin in political life is not those two things; it is most certainly ambivalence. In my community of Burleigh, the former Labor government was ambivalent to the concerns that plagued this very special part of the Gold Coast.

I often think about a second colloquialism, which is: the standard you walk past is the standard you set. We had a government that was prepared to walk past the homeless sleeping in sand dunes. We had a government that was prepared to walk past those struggling with mental health issues and without the resources to get well. We had a government that was prepared to walk past louts defecating and urinating in public. In fact, they not only walked past it but also facilitated it by watering down laws that were there to set standards.

On this side of the House, we often talk about 10 years of decline. My community has felt 10 years of Labor decline—the decline in standards which has allowed this antisocial culture to plague this beautiful part of the Gold Coast. On this side of the House we take a different view. Our view is simple: there should be consequences for action and those who engage in behaviour that offends standards should be discouraged from doing so, because if you do not you give tacit endorsement to those behaviours.

Burleigh has been beset by a plague of antisocial behaviour. Our traders have had enough. The situation has become so bad that young women now feel too afraid to work a shift in Burleigh. I am proud to say that our government is going to get on top of this problem. Our police minister has already said that we will be looking at this. We will deliver into Burleigh more CCTV, extra police resources and a police beat. On 22 October we will be convening a round table where my community can send an unequivocal message to our government that there must be a reversal of Labor's soft laws so that we can restore everything that makes Burleigh beautiful. Not only are there consequences for action but there will be a reason to return to Burleigh.

C&K Craigslea Community Kindergarten

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (9.13 pm): I know fellow parents will agree with me when I say that nothing is more important than the safety of our kids. That is something that people from all political parties can agree on. Unfortunately, for well over a month, the parents of the children who have attended Craigslea C&K kindy in my electorate have been in turmoil. They have been stressed over their children's safety and wellbeing, scrambling to find alternative arrangements and desperately working out how to get their children's precious artwork back, held at ransom bizarrely with a \$2,000 price tag.

At a time when child safety is at the forefront of our minds, you would be forgiven for thinking the government would immediately jump into action. Instead, the Crisafulli government's sluggish response was, frankly, too slow. By the time parents approached my office on 1 September, things had truly

started to unravel at the kindy. Breakdowns in the workplace environment between the beloved early childhood educators and management meant the parents no longer felt comfortable sending their children into such a chaotic environment.

We listened to the parents' concerns and acted immediately, the very next day contacting the Early Childhood Regulatory Authority, the arm of the education department responsible for the regulation of kindergartens. It was there we got our first pushback. Apparently the department was already aware of issues at the kindy but said that the matter was largely outside its scope. My requests for updates and briefings were treated with a startling lack of urgency. I also wrote to the Office of Fair Trading. A response arrived just last week—too little, too late. I do thank C&K centrally for their efforts on this matter. The circumstances made it difficult for them to resolve directly.

Attempts to raise the alarm with the education minister initially got us nowhere fast, although I did eventually secure a briefing from the department, over one month on from the start of this mess. When asked for details, the minister's office referred me to a recent media release—a media release that did not exist. I do thank the minister for the update, but it was concerning that throughout this entire saga the government was happily sharing more information with journalists than with the parents and staff who were affected or with my office, which had been constantly advocating on their behalf. I wonder where those affected families would be without the significant media coverage this achieved.

One of the most glaring issues here is the total absence of leadership from the Premier. There was certainly no leadership from him when he chose to crack jokes on breakfast TV, making light of the matter by only commenting on the kids' paintings aspect of the issues at the kindy. Parents told me many times that they are particularly concerned with this lack of care from the Premier.

To the relief of all involved, a new location has been found for a kindy set-up. It is great to hear that many of the children caught up in all of this have been reunited. The education minister should ensure his government's failure to prioritise parents' concerns until there was media interest does not happen again.

As the local member, I want to take a moment to thank the parents and the staff. I thank all those affected parents who championed their children and supported the staff that they all adored so much. Your collective campaign of emails and calls kept the pressure on the government and demonstrated the importance of community in this process. I will be keeping a close eye on the situation and the solution, as temporary as it is at the moment, to provide support where I can and ensure this does not happen again in our local area.

National Carers Week

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (9.16 pm): I rise to acknowledge National Carers Week and some of the local and statewide organisations doing incredible work to support our Redcliffe and Queensland carers. This week we celebrate their wonderful contribution as unpaid carers. The theme is: 'You are one, know one or will be one'. Carers Week follows Mental Health Awareness Week and they are closely connected.

Last week I joined Scarborough Trade College for one of their fun activities to celebrate Mental Health Week—hotdogs with headspace. Thank you to Redcliffe headspace who were onsite to glitter us up and promote healthy mental wellbeing. Thanks to Leah Pollock-Grant, the guidance officer, for her creativity and enthusiasm to host this event annually.

I was also very excited to attend the official opening of the new co-funded Medicare Mental Health Centre in Kippa-Ring yesterday which is a welcome and much needed service to provide free, walk-in mental health support for those in my community. As a mum and a carer of a son living with bipolar and a long-time advocate for more mental health services locally, this will ensure those who need it can get access closer to home. Thank you to Brisbane North PHN, Communify and other partners who will deliver this service.

Today, as co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health Carers, I was privileged to welcome Arafmi to Parliament House for their inaugural launch event. Arafmi has provided free support for mental health carers in Queensland for over 45 years. Arafmi provides 24/7 telephone support, respite accommodation, and one-on-one and group coaching and advocacy. Recently, I joined staff, patients and carers from the Redcliffe ICU for their first ever Australian Walk for PICS—post intensive care syndrome. Thanks to Laura Smith CNC of the Metro North ICU Follow-Up Clinic for organising.

I also want to acknowledge Carers Queensland, Carers Foundation Australia founder, Ronnie Benbow OAM, who offer wellbeing programs and retreats to ensure carers have someone to look after them, too. In Redcliffe, I want to thank Elaine Dare, one of the Redcliffe Dementia Alliance OGs who

runs a monthly dementia support group, helping carers feel supported and not alone. I give a shout-out to Redcliffe Golf Club Ladies Committee, which hosted a fundraiser for Be Uplifted North Brisbane Breast Cancer Charity. To those right now in my electorate of Redcliffe who care for loved ones, like my stepdad, Keith, who is caring full-time for my mum: thank you for all you do. I see you, I value you, I celebrate, I salute and I honour you.

Sunnybank Special School

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.19 pm): I rise today to speak about the Sunnybank Special School, a remarkable institution providing outstanding education and support to students with disabilities. I acknowledge the remarkable achievements of Mr Darren Greenway, the principal of the Sunnybank Special School in my electorate of Toohey. Darren is a leader who has given his heart and soul to his school and community. Those who know him speak of his energy, his compassion and his genuine belief that every child deserves the chance to learn and to shine. He is not a leader who sits behind a desk; he is there every day beside his students, his staff and the families he serves.

Under Darren's leadership, Sunnybank Special School has grown and become far more than a place of learning; it has become a true community hub where families of many cultures, faiths and traditions come together as one. Darren has the rare gift of being able to unite people—making everyone feel welcomed, valued and respected. Parents often describe how he takes the time to listen, to learn phrases in their language, to walk with them through the challenges and to celebrate even the smallest of victories of their children.

Darren's commitment extends well beyond the school gates. He has forged strong partnerships with local organisations, faith groups and community leaders, always with the goal of giving his students the richest possible opportunities. His vision of education is one where no-one is left behind, where everyone is given a chance and where diversity is celebrated as a strength.

I will share one small but telling example. Each morning, Darren positions himself at the school gate to personally greet every student by name. For many of these children that smile and welcome from their principal is the moment that sets them up for success that day. It is a simple act, but it reflects who Darren is as a leader—someone who sees the individual, who values every child and who understands the importance of connection. To the children themselves, Darren is more than a principal; he is their champion, their advocate, their biggest supporter. They know he believes in them, and that belief makes all the difference.

Leadership like this does not happen by chance; it comes from a deep commitment to service and a belief in the power of community. Darren often quotes Penny Wong when he says, 'To serve the community you must represent the community.' You will see this belief in action at Sunnybank Special School.

Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.22 pm): I rise to highlight some of the outstanding developments and activities that have taken place across the electorate of Moggill in recent weeks and to acknowledge the strong delivery by the Crisafulli LNP state government in partnership with our local community. To begin with, during the last week I was delighted to welcome three ministers separately to the electorate of Moggill to engage with residents, community organisations, environmental groups and Queensland's emergency services. Their visits were a valuable opportunity to share the outstanding work being achieved locally and to highlight future priorities for our community.

Last Tuesday, our community was honoured to host the official launch of Get Ready Queensland Week 2025 at our local Kenmore State High School. It was a pleasure to join the Hon. Ann Leahy MP, Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, as well as Major General Jake Ellwood (Retd), the CEO of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, and Get Ready Queensland Ambassador Johnathan Thurston for this important event. Having this statewide launch in our local community emphasised the strong cross-governmental and agency partnerships under the leadership of the Liberal National Party state government and the exceptional commitment of our residents, volunteers and schools to disaster preparedness, resilience and community safety.

I was also delighted to host the Hon. Andrew Powell MP, Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation, for my local event recognising the dedicated work of our local environmental and creek catchment groups. Through the Crisafulli LNP government's investment of \$375,000, five outstanding organisations—including the Kholo Creek Catchment Group,

the Pullen Pullen Catchments Group, the Moggill Creek Catchment Group, the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network and The Hut Environmental and Community Association—have received funding for a range of important projects. These initiatives will restore waterways, enhance native habitats, expand environmental education and strengthen community participation in conservation, and it was a privilege to celebrate all the achievements of these organisations alongside the Minister for the Environment.

Last week I also welcomed the Hon. Brett Mickelberg MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads, to the electorate of Moggill for discussions with stakeholders and community representatives on our local transport priorities and the delivery of key election commitments. The Liberal National Party state government is focused on practical outcomes that improve road safety, reduce congestion and enhance public and active transport for the electorate of Moggill and across the western suburbs of Brisbane. I also recently met with the Hon. Tim Mander MP, Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, for a positive discussion on the delivery of local election commitments for our sporting and community clubs and future funding opportunities.

As we approach the first anniversary of the election of the Crisafulli LNP state government, it is clear that after a decade of decline under Labor our communities are seeing genuine progress and delivery by the LNP. Across the electorate of Moggill, the results speak for themselves. Funding is being delivered, improved infrastructure is being planned and progressed. I look forward to a strong future over the next few years as we continue to deliver for the electorate of Moggill.

Noosa Electorate

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (9.25 pm): The quality of debate and speeches at the 30th annual YMCA Youth Parliament was outstanding. Congratulations to all including Grace, Bryson and the team who did a superb job. Our very own Noosa Youth MP, Jarrah Small, spoke with passion and maturity on impacts to Noosa's iconic environmental tourism brand which is critical for our economy. Hence why the 11 whale entanglements in Queensland shark nets during this migration has seen outrage from coastal communities and visitors, and peaceful protests and petitions. A meeting of Noosa organisations that work with or use the ocean voted in the majority for net replacement with safe alternatives during whale migration season including Noosa council and Tourism Noosa, and I thank them for the leadership shown.

The Federal Court determined in 2019 that drum lines do not reduce the risk of unprovoked shark interactions. An extensive review during the appeals tribunal case against the Queensland government reported, 'The lethal component of the shark control program does not reduce the risk of unprovoked shark interactions. The scientific evidence before us is overwhelming in this regard.' According to research from the University of Wollongong, nets do not keep swimmers safer.

Mr Stevens: Rubbish. Ask the people who've been bitten.

Ms BOLTON: I take the interjection. I am just reporting exactly what the tribunal determined. Since 2006 there have been three fatal shark bites at Queensland beaches where lethal drum lines and nets are in place. Governments so far have disregarded the recommendation from the KPMG report to transition away from nets as well as calls from Noosa council and residents who voted over 70 per cent for a trial of nonlethal shark control measures.

Living amongst nature comes with risks, as does driving—in Australia in 2023 tragically 1,290 people lost their lives. Education, as we know, is paramount to reduce injuries and fatalities in every realm.

Questions from our community are many and include why net alternatives being used successfully elsewhere are not being made available to community requests. Other questions include whether nets attract sharks via the bycatch that is in the nets. We also need a CSIRO study to put that debate to bed, amongst many others.

Our community seeks to live, work and play alongside our natural environment, not against it. I ask our government to listen to them and work towards replacing those nets before the next migration.

Road Safety

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (9.28 pm): A few weeks ago I was invited to speak at a presentation alongside officers from the Capalaba Police Station, the Forensic Crash Unit and the traffic branch. It was part of a program called 'Beyond 25—Survive the Drive', which visits schools to educate young people on road safety and responsible driving both before and after they get their licence. This session

was held at the Cleveland Industry School, speaking to around 50 students aged 16 to 17. The goal was simple: to help them understand the real risks on the road and the importance of making the right decisions.

You could see that most of the students really absorbed the message, but as usual there is always one. The traffic branch officers explained that they are not out there to punish people for the sake of it; they are trying to keep people alive. When they pull somebody over it is not just about the fine; it is about stopping something worse from happening. Yes, tickets are issued when somebody's behaviour puts lives at risk, but education must come first.

Mr McDonald: It could save someone's life.

Mr FIELD: Absolutely. The Forensic Crash Unit shared what they do: how they investigate crashes, gather evidence and determine how accidents happen. They showed confronting images and videos from real accidents. This clearly had an impact on the room. Sometimes seeing the reality is what it takes to make some people stop and think.

I was also happy to share my story with the hope it might make a difference. I asked the students, 'How would you feel if the police knocked on your door to tell you that your mum, your dad, sister or brother wasn't coming home? More importantly, how would you feel if they got the news that you were killed in an accident?' Think about your parents and loved ones for just a minute. Unfortunately, I know what that is like. That kind of loss is real and permanent, and that pain does not go away.

I reminded them that the decisions they make behind the wheel affect more than just themselves and to think about their families, mates, eyewitnesses and first responders. The ripple effect of an accident is massive and it affects a lot more people than they think. The one key message they were given is that having a driver's licence is not a right; it is a privilege and with that privilege comes responsibility. If this presentation and others like it helps one student avoid a tragedy then it has done its job. I will continue supporting programs like this in any way I can. To all of the officers and organisers involved, I thank you. Keep up the great work. I am proud to stand beside you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): The question is—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.31 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, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, 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, Weir, Whiting, Young