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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 16 October 2025

Subject	Page
PRIVILEGE	3151
Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House	3151
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence relating to the alleged deliberately misleading of the House by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and member for Clayfield.	3151
Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House	3152
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence relating to the alleged deliberately misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumba.	3152
Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contempt of Parliament	3153
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence relating to the alleged contempt of Parliament by the member for Southern Downs.	3153
Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House	3153
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence relating to the alleged contempt of Parliament by the member for Lytton.	3153
Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contempt of Parliament	3154
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence relating to the alleged contempt of Parliament by member for Waterford.	3154
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	3154
Respect to the Chair; Members Seeking the Call	3154
Motor Neurone Disease	3155
Visitors to Public Gallery	3155
Absence of Minister	3155
MOTION OF CONDOLENCE	3155
Henderson, Mr IT	3155
TABLED PAPER	3156
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	3156
Child Protection	3156

Table of Contents – Thursday, 16 October 2025

Townsville, Defence Force Personnel.....	3157
Titmus, Ms A.....	3157
Housing Supply.....	3157
Townsville, Defence Force Personnel; Cross River Rail	3158
Gladstone, Deaths; Disaster Preparedness.....	3159
Social Housing	3159
Sport, Achievements.....	3160
Environment, Protection.....	3160
Indigenous Business Month.....	3161
ABSENCE OF MINISTER.....	3162
HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE.....	3162
Report	3162
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 14, 58th Parliament—	
Improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme	3162
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	3163
Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology.....	3163
Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology.....	3164
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Answer to Education, Arts and Communities Committee Question on Notice No. 12,	
undated, asked of the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child	
Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Amanda Camm.	3164
Child Protection.....	3165
Victims of Crime, Data Reporting	3165
Child Protection.....	3166
Victims of Crime, Data Reporting	3167
Child Protection.....	3168
Victims of Crime, Data Reporting	3169
Container Refund Scheme	3169
Victims of Crime, Data Reporting	3170
Container Refund Scheme	3171
Fraud Protection, AI	3172
Police Resources	3172
Trout, Mr M.....	3173
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media articles, various dates, relating to the former member for Barron River,	
Mr Michael Trout.....	3173
Youth Justice.....	3174
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.....	3175
Container Refund Scheme	3175
ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL	3176
Introduction	3176
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025.....	3176
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes.	3176
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human	
rights.....	3176
First Reading	3178
Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.	3178
Resolved in the affirmative.....	3178
Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee.....	3178
CORONERS (MINING AND RESOURCES CORONER) AMENDMENT BILL	3178
Second Reading	3178
Consideration in Detail.....	3189
Clause 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.	3189
Insertion of new clause—.....	3189
Division: Question put—That leave be granted.	3189
Resolved in the negative.....	3190
Clause 4, as read, agreed to.	3190
Clause 5—.....	3190
Division: Question put—That the member for Gaven's amendments Nos 2 to 8 be agreed to.	3192
Resolved in the negative.....	3192
Non-government amendments (Ms Scanlon) negatived.	3192
Clauses 5 to 21 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.....	3192
Third Reading	3192
Long Title.....	3193
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....	3193
Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance.....	3193
Container Refund Scheme	3193
Community Safety	3194
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from right to information document, dated 23 January 2025, titled 'Police	
Minister Media'.....	3194
Container Refund Scheme	3195
Drugs, Testing.....	3195
Container Refund Scheme	3196
Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology.....	3196
Container Refund Scheme	3197
Liberal National Party.....	3198

Table of Contents – Thursday, 16 October 2025

<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media article, dated 15 October 2025, titled 'LNP government criticised over new "jobs for mates" appointment of party powerbroker'	3198
Container Refund Scheme	3198
Bremer River Bridge	3199
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from Ipswich West Moreton, dated 9 October, titled 'Zanow takes aim at TMR'	3199
Maryborough CBD, Antisocial Behaviour	3199
Energy Roadmap	3200
Gregory Electorate, Road Infrastructure	3201
Lindum Railway Station, Upgrades	3202
Energy Roadmap; Southern Downs, Water Security	3202
Victims of Crime, Data Reporting	3203
Thuringowa Electorate	3203
Housing Affordability	3204
Warrego Highway	3204
JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	3205
Report, Motion to Take Note.....	3205
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	3216
Error in Division	3216
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	3216
Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports	3216
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	3216
EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL	3216
Second Reading	3216
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 2, 58th Parliament—Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill, government response.....	3216
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Conversation</i> , dated 6 October 2025, titled 'More and more Australian families are homeschooling. How can we make sure they do it well?'	3226
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education Queensland policy document, undated, titled 'Red tape reduction in Queensland state schools'	3232
DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	3240
Deputy Speaker's Ruling, Point of Order.....	3240
EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL	3241
Second Reading	3241
ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF HINCHINBROOK	3242
Seat Declared Vacant.....	3242
EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL	3242
Second Reading	3242
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'Concept Master Plan'	3244
Consideration in Detail	3254
Clause 1, as read, agreed to.....	3254
Clause 2—	3254
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. John-Paul Langbroek's amendments.....	3255
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. John-Paul Langbroek's amendments.....	3255
Amendments agreed to.	3255
Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.	3255
Clauses 3 to 8, as read, agreed to.	3255
Clauses 9 and 10, as read, agreed to.	3256
Clauses 11 to 15, as read, agreed to.	3256
Insertion of new clause—	3256
Amendment agreed to.....	3256
Clauses 16 to 33, as read, agreed to.	3257
Clause 34—.....	3257
Clause 34, as read, agreed to.....	3258
Clauses 35 to 39, as read, agreed to.	3258
Insertion of new clause—	3258
Amendment agreed to.	3259
Insertion of new clause—	3259
Amendment agreed to.	3261
Amendments agreed to.	3261
Clause 40 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.	3267
Third Reading.....	3267
Long Title.....	3267
Amendment agreed to	3267
ADJOURNMENT	3267
Morningside Railway Station.....	3267
Central Queensland, Road Infrastructure.....	3268
Drugs, Testing	3269
Southport Electorate, Events	3269
Algeria Electorate, Southside Seniors Expo	3270
Mackay Electorate, Business Achievements.....	3270
Motor Neurone Disease	3271

Table of Contents – Thursday, 16 October 2025

Don River Dash.....	3272
March for Australia.....	3272
Theodore Electorate, Anzac Day Memorials; 725 Bus Route; Bushfire Preparedness.....	3273
ATTENDANCE	3273

THURSDAY, 16 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.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: On 4 July 2025 the member for Algeester wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services deliberately misled the House on 12 June 2025. The matter relates to statements made by the minister during the second reading debate of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill. In this matter, I believe there was potential that the member's reputation could be unfairly affected by the words spoken by the minister; however, I note that the minister apologised and corrected the record on 14 October 2025, and this is recorded at page 2984 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to the alleged deliberately misleading of the House by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and member for Clayfield.

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 4 July 2025, the member for Algeester wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services deliberately misled the House on 12 June 2025.

The matter relates to statements made by the Minister during the second reading debate of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill.

Specifically, the Minister stated:

'As the member for Algeester says, the First Nations officer who works at the Mackay Hospital and Health Service, who is the deputy chair of the Mackay Hospital and Health Service, should not be on the board of that hospital and health service. Yes, she does because that is what she came into this place and said. She came into this place and said, 'You cannot and should not be on that board because you will not be able to manage your conflict of interest.'

The member argued that these statements were deliberately misleading and provided the transcript of her speech during debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill where at no time does she reference any board member of the Mackay Hospital and Health Service.

I sought further information from the Minister about the allegations made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Minister submitted that he had withdrawn the statement in question, and that this was a political debate where members engage in argument by discussion opposing viewpoints or differing opinions.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I have reviewed the Record of Proceedings and note that the Minister's withdrawal was in response to the member for Miller having taken personal offence at words attributed to him, and not in relation to the member for Algeester.

Further, I am of the opinion that when the matter involves words being attributed to a member, when there is no evidence that the member said those words, that this is not a matter of political debate. This is a matter of the kind I referred to on 10 June 2025 when I said:

In looking at whether a matter is serious, I consider matters such as: does this matter seriously impinge upon the rights and powers of the House, committee or members—for example, does the matter seriously misrepresent the record of the House or has the matter unfairly affected the reputation of a member?

In this matter, I believe there is potential that the member's reputation could be unfairly affected by the words spoken by the Minister.

However, I note that the Minister apologised and corrected the record on 14 October 2025 and that is recorded at page 2984 of the Record of Proceedings. Accordingly, I consider the Minister has made an adequate apology.

Therefore, I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: On 6 August 2025 the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 26 June 2025. The Leader of the Opposition alleged that the government had promised to deliver 2,200 new hospital beds by 2028 but instead had—

... torn up that plan, with Queenslanders left to wait to find out the timeline for their hospital to get upgraded—the government's future health capital program pushed off into the never-never. In the meantime, workers have been laid off and waiting lists have exploded.

The minister argued that this statement was deliberately misleading because the 2025-26 budget papers reference the Hospital Rescue Plan and allocate forward funding to future health capital projects. The minister also provided data indicating that the Queensland Health workforce had increased and hospital waitlist times had decreased under the current government. The Leader of the Opposition submitted that he was referring to the fact that the Hospital Rescue Plan had no timelines affixed to it and, therefore, the program had been pushed into the 'never-never'. He also provided different evidence to support his statement that workers had been laid off and hospital waiting lists have increased under the current government.

I consider this to be another matter where the minister and the Leader of the Opposition have differing viewpoints on the Hospital Rescue Plan and the impacts on the Queensland Health workforce and hospital waitlists and have drawn on different data to support those viewpoints. It is, again, technical in nature. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to the alleged deliberately misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumbidgee.

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 6 August 2025, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 26 June 2025.

The matter relates to a statement made during the cognate debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill, Appropriation Bill and the Revenue and Other Legislation Bill.

Specifically, the Leader of the Opposition stated:

'The Premier promised to deliver 2,200 new hospital beds by 2028. Instead, they have torn up that plan, with Queenslanders left to wait to find out the timeline for their hospital to get upgraded—the government's future health capital program pushed off into the never-never. In the meantime, workers have been laid off and waiting lists have exploded.'

The Minister argued that this statement was deliberately misleading because:

- the budget papers reference the Hospital Rescue Plan and allocate forward funding to the relevant hospital expansion projects,
- there has been an increase to the Queensland Health workforce since the LNP came into government according to the budget papers, and
- elective surgery waiting lists have decreased according to the government's public performance data.

I sought further information from the Leader of the Opposition about the allegations made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Leader of the Opposition submitted that he was referring to the fact that the Hospital Rescue Plan has no timelines affixed to it, and therefore the program has been pushed into the never-never.

The Leader of the Opposition stated that he was referring to widely publicised information provided to the Opposition that workers had lost their jobs at the Redcliffe Hospital Expansion and noted this has been raised in the House.

With respect to hospital waitlists, the Leader of the Opposition provided a transcript from recent Estimates Hearings with quotes from the Queensland Health Director General.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

In this matter, the Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have differing views on the Hospital Rescue Plan and the impacts on the workforce and hospital waitlists. Both the Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have provided me with evidence in support of their claims with respect to each of the three statements.

This is clearly a matter originally described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 and expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 4 April 2022 when he stated: *The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation.*

This is a political argument using opposing viewpoints based on differing expressions, statistics or methods of calculation. It is technical in nature.

Therefore, I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contempt of Parliament



Mr SPEAKER: On 1 September 2025 the member for Lytton wrote to me alleging that in debate on 28 August 2025 the member for Southern Downs, in response to an interjection, pointed to the member for Lytton and yelled out, 'I will get you.' The member for Lytton considered this was a threat of violence. The member for Southern Downs denied the allegation. Examination of the audio confirms the member for Southern Downs' explanation. The member for Southern Downs did not say, 'I will get you'; the member said, 'I will get to you.' Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to the alleged contempt of Parliament by the member for Southern Downs.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: On 16 September 2025 the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business wrote to me alleging that the member for Lytton deliberately misled the House on 28 August 2025. The matter relates to a statement made during Private Members' Statements. I note that the member for Lytton corrected the record and apologised on 14 October 2025, and this is recorded at page 2981 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to the alleged contempt of Parliament by the member for Lytton.

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 16 September 2025, the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business wrote to me alleging that the member for Lytton deliberately misled the House on 28 August 2025.

The matter relates to a statement made during Private Members' Statements.

Specifically, the member for Lytton stated:

'The estimates hearing exposed the extraordinary workload being dumped on the office of the Small Business Commissioner. When I asked whether any additional funding had been provided to support the so-called refocusing of this office, the director-general was blunt when he said, 'There is not an allocation'.'

The Minister argues that this statement is misleading, because the member did not ask the Director-General about funding for the Queensland Small Business Commissioner during the estimates hearing in question.

I sought further information from the member for Lytton about the allegations made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The member for Lytton advised me that she inadvertently misspoke during Private Members Statements on 28 August 2025.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I note that the member for Lytton corrected the record and apologies on 14 October 2025 and that is recorded at page 2981 of the Record of Proceedings. Accordingly, I consider the member has made an adequate explanation.

Therefore, I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contempt of Parliament

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 19 September 2025 the Attorney-General wrote to me indicating she had been informed by colleagues that the member for Waterford made an obscene gesture towards her in the House on 17 September 2025. I reviewed the relevant footage of the broadcast of proceedings and found it to be inconclusive. I then wrote to the member for Waterford to seek a response to the allegations. The member for Waterford provided an explanation for the footage. I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to the alleged contempt of Parliament by member for Waterford.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Excuse me. Are people questioning my ruling?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: You will be warned. I am in the chair.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Respect to the Chair; Members Seeking the Call

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 3 April this year I had cause to make a statement reminding members about respecting the authority of the chair. The Speaker's authority—and that includes the authority of all Deputy Speakers—is derived from the House itself. All are ultimately responsible to the House. It is the duty of the Speaker and Deputy Speakers to maintain order and uphold the rules of the House. It is the duty of each member to respect the decisions of the Speaker and Deputy Speakers. As I stated in April, order quickly dissolves if members believe that they always know better and start disrespecting the authority of the chair.

In recent sitting days there have been some incidences in the House regarding members obtaining the call. I would like to clarify the rules around members seeking the call. Standing order 247(1) provides that a member wishing to speak 'shall rise and address the Speaker'. Accordingly, members seeking the call should rise to their feet and seek the attention of the chair. There have also been rulings by Speaker Reynolds and Speaker Simpson on this matter.

Standing order 247(2) provides that the Speaker 'shall call upon the member who, in the Speaker's opinion, rose first'. On 10 November 2016 Speaker Wellington referred to a host of previous rulings on this point, including Speaker Simpson's on 5 June 2012 at pages 441 and 443 and on 20 August 2013. As Speaker Simpson stated in the latter ruling, standing order 247(2) makes it clear that—

The decision as to who has the call is at the complete discretion of the chair and can only be challenged immediately in accordance with standing order 247(3) ...

Speaker Wellington noted that this is a perfectly sensible procedure because it provides an effective remedy and avoids relying on later recollections by members as to who jumped or who did not jump and seek the call. Speaker Wellington noted that speaking lists are produced by the whips, but these lists are only a guide and members must jump and seek the call in accordance with standing order 247(1).

Like Speaker Wellington, I note that the speaking lists for bills are notoriously unreliable, with members often not turning up for the debate in the order of the lists or simply dropping off the lists. That being said, I have instructed the temporary chairs that if two members appear to have jumped and sought the call at essentially the same time and one of those members is next on the speaking list they should prefer the member who is next on the list.

On 14 October 2025, during the debate of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill, after the member for Ferny Grove finished his speech, the member for Gregory and the member for Logan essentially sought the call at the same time. The Deputy Speaker at the time gave the call to the

member for Gregory, who was next on the list. The member for Logan upon not receiving the call responded by loudly and repeatedly banging on the lectern in front of him, like a drum roll. I have reviewed the overwatch footage of this incident and I find that the member for Logan's behaviour was designed to disrupt the House and was grossly disorderly.

The Deputy Speaker at the time cautioned the member for Logan for his theatrics. The member for Logan was on a warning at the time, and in my view the Deputy Speaker would have been well within his rights to order the member for Logan to withdraw from the chamber for up to one hour under standing order 253A. Nonetheless, I now request the member for Logan to apologise to the House for his disorderly behaviour which I do not want repeated by any member.

Mr POWER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. For any disruption to the House, I apologise.

Motor Neurone Disease

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that this week is the launch of 'Quiet Please for MND and Me'—a 24-hour silence challenge where participants use only text-to-speech apps or the classic pen and paper to communicate. Motor Neurone Disease is a very challenging disease that impacts many Queensland families. It often causes people to lose their ability to speak.

I hope members were able to visit the MND and Me Foundation coffee van in the porte cochere this morning to learn more about the charity and campaign. I have been advised that there will be one less voice to contend with today in the chamber as the member for Greenslopes participates in the challenge. I do not know if he convinced others to join him in this challenge. When the member for Greenslopes completes his vow of silence at 6 pm, I trust he will follow it up with a vow of obedience to the standing orders.

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Rochedale State High School in the electorate of Mansfield; Toowoomba State High School in the electorate of Toowoomba North; Stafford Heights State School in the electorate of Stafford; and St Joseph's School in New South Wales. We will also be visited in the gallery this morning by the principal and school captains from Mudgeeraba Creek State School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba.

Absence of Minister

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I advise that the Minister for Primary Industries will be absent for today's sitting.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Henderson, Mr IT

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.42 am): <I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Ian Thomas Henderson, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and Minister of the State.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Ian Thomas Henderson was born in Brisbane on 24 October 1940. He attended state primary schools in Tin Can Bay, Mooloolaba and Mount Gravatt before completing high school at the Cavendish Road State High School. After leaving school, Mr Henderson attained a Certificate of Teaching at the Kelvin Grove Teachers College and also completed a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Educational Studies at the University of Queensland.

He commenced a teaching career in 1962, which included 3½ years at the Queensland School for the Deaf in Annerley, and later served as deputy principal at Indooroopilly and Springwood high schools. Mr Henderson was a man of education. He also held a Bachelor of Letters at the University of New England, an Associate Diploma of Theology from the Australian College of Theology in Melbourne, and a Doctor of Religious Education from the International Bible Institute in Florida.

Mr Henderson joined the National Party in 1974, and at the state election of November 1977 he contested the seat of Mount Gravatt for the party. While unsuccessful at first, he contested the seat

again in 1980 before winning at the state election of October 1983. In his first speech to this House, Mr Henderson described himself as an 'unmitigated royalist of the highest order'.

During his two terms in this House, Mr Henderson served on a number of government party committees across a wide range of portfolios. When Russell Cooper became the Premier of Queensland in October 1989, he invited Mr Henderson to serve in his cabinet as Minister for Justice and Corrective Services. Mr Henderson's parliamentary and ministerial career ended when the government was defeated at the state election in December 1989.

None of us presently serving in this chamber were members in the 1980s when Mr Henderson was here, but we all recognise the sacrifice it takes to put yourself forward for elected office and how determined he remained to succeed despite a number of initial setbacks.

Ian Thomas Henderson passed away on 25 August 2025, aged 84 years. On behalf of the government, I place on the record our thanks for Mr Henderson's service over many years, and I extend my sympathy and that of this House to his family and friends. Vale, Ian Henderson.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.45 am): I rise to support the motion moved this morning by the Premier and express condolences on the passing of Mr Ian Henderson, a former member of this House. Ian Henderson was a proud local representative for his community, serving as the member for Mount Gravatt. Before coming to this place Ian had a long career in education. He taught at the School for the Deaf in Annerley, a cause I know the member for Miller is also passionate about.

Ian proudly served in the state school system as a teacher, subject master and deputy principal in Mount Gravatt, Springwood and Indooroopilly. It is clear that Ian was passionate about education. All of our teachers do incredible work, and I admire Ian's commitment to teaching the next generation. On behalf of the opposition, I extend my condolences to friends, family and colleagues of former member Mr Ian Henderson and thank him for his service to this House.

Mr SPEAKER: Will honourable members indicate their agreement by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg)—

Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4266-25), sponsored by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 9,371 petitions, requesting the House to urgently ensure the repair of the Savannahlander rail line to full operation

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Child Protection

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.48 am): <Restoring community safety is the cornerstone of our government. We have taken strong action on crime to protect Queenslanders in their homes and in their communities, but there is no higher responsibility of any government—of all of us—to protect our children. All kids should be safe. Every child in every corner of the state should be safe no matter their background or circumstances. When a child is harmed—when a system fails—we all feel it. It shakes trust and it demands action. That is what our government is delivering. We are committed to fixing the broken child safety system and delivering the strongest child protection in the nation.

Earlier this year we announced a commission of inquiry into our child safety system. The system is meant to protect kids but under Labor it was neglected. Kids and families were let down. We ordered a full audit of self-placing children across Queensland to better understand how we can support these vulnerable children.

Daniel's Law will deliver Queensland's first public child sex offender register. We also opened an inquiry into Labor's failures of the blue card child protection system. Parents deserve to have confidence

that their kids are safe when they drop them off at child care or community sport. We promised it before the election and now we are delivering it. Our government has bolstered the regulatory authority to conduct more checks on more early childcare centres. We have also led the charge to establish a national register of childcare workers. Someone who harms kids in another state should not be allowed to cross the border and repeat that behaviour.

There is more work to be done. I can announce today that our government will table legislative amendments to fast-track implementation of the reportable conduct scheme across all sectors. It will deliver stronger protections for our children, and it will deliver them sooner. The reportable conduct scheme will give Queenslanders a place to report worrying behaviour and suspicious conduct. Under Labor, some sectors—including the significant early childhood education and care—would not have commenced until 1 July 2027. This is almost a decade after first being recommended by the landmark royal commission. Our government is implementing it as soon as possible.

I have said it before: our early childhood and child safety industries are filled with hardworking, caring, loving people, but they have been let down, too. We owe it to them and to our kids to get this right. We will keep listening. We will keep improving. We will do everything we can to create generational change and reform the broken system.

Townsville, Defence Force Personnel

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.50 am): I want to briefly reflect on an incident involving defence personnel that occurred outside Townsville. We have great respect for our service men and women, what they do to keep us safe and the sacrifices they make. Our defence personnel are important to our state and they are very important to the Townsville community. I know the local community will stand beside those affected as the circumstances of this incident are understood. All in this House are thinking of everyone involved.

Titmus, Ms A

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.51 am): Ariarne Titmus has announced this morning her retirement from the pool. We all remember that magic moment from Paris when she became the first woman in almost a century to defend her 400 metre freestyle gold. A fighter, a golden girl, a proud Queensland— we wish her well.

Housing Supply

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.51 am): The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job and fixing Labor's housing crisis. We see over on the opposition benches failed minister after failed minister.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is a shame; I take the interjection from the honourable Minister for Housing, who I am working particularly well with to deliver housing across the state—as I am with the Minister for Home Ownership. We have the housing subcommittee where we are getting on with the job. We have the first home ownership minister in Australia. We are getting on with the job.

If we look across the state, as I said yesterday, the Residential Activation Fund has unlocked 98,000 new homes for Queenslanders. We have done that within a year of the Crisafulli government. I have declared three new PDAs: Southern Thornlands PDA, unlocking 7,000 homes in that area; North Harbour PDA, unlocking 3,700 homes; and the Mount Peter PDA in Far North Queensland, unlocking 18,500 homes. That would not have been done and I would not have been able to make those declarations if we did not have LNP advocates on the ground fighting for their communities and putting housing as the No. 1 priority in their communities. We are getting on with the job.

Mr O'Connor: Build, baby, build.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the housing minister: build, baby, build. Whether it is dredging, baby, dredging in Caloundra, or drilling, baby, drilling in the member for McConnel's electorate or building, baby, building—Bleijie is doing it all.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: He is going to take offence to that. I am but a little cog in this wonderful Crisafulli government. We are all working together, delivering for the great people of Queensland.

We are getting rid of the red tape, the green tape and the government tape that Labor put on which was forcing developers not to build homes in Queensland. We are partnering with the private sector and we are partnering with local governments to unlock homes—just like the Woolloongabba PDA which I recently amended. It is going to unlock 16,000 new homes in the Woolloongabba PDA.

I see the opposition were whingeing about it last week. Here is my message to the opposition: zero of zero is zero. You cannot move into a Labor Party brochure, you cannot move into a Labor Party announcement, but you can move into a house that will be built under the LNP government. They were all talk and all rhetoric, but you cannot move into a piece of paper. All they had was glossy brochures about the Woolloongabba PDA. We have got rid of the government tape, the red tape, the green tape, and we are going to unlock 16,000 homes right next to the Gabba Entertainment Precinct. A 17,000-seat new arena is going to be built by the private sector under the LNP government, not a Labor government and the Labor failures over there.

Finally, I get to Hamilton Northshore. Again, their plan for Hamilton Northshore was an athletes village that they had not budgeted for. They had put no money in the budget. We have changed the athletes village to reinvigorate the RNA and now we are getting on with the job and delivering Hamilton Northshore. We are refocusing EDQ. Under this government, EDQ have increased their housing approvals by 13.5 per cent in less than one year. This is getting on with the job. This is the fresh start Queenslanders voted for and we are going to continue to deliver for Queensland in the Crisafulli government.

Townsville, Defence Force Personnel; Cross River Rail



Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.55 am): At the outset I too would like to place on the record my thoughts with the ADF personnel injured in the incident in North Queensland overnight. It is a reminder of the risks and the price paid by our service men and women when they are at home preparing and training for operations, not just while they are overseas deployed.

In December 2024, I revealed that Queenslanders had been misled by the former government and that the true cost of Cross River Rail would be much more than the \$5.4 billion they were first promised by Labor. At that time, I advised that the project, including the various associated works, would be more than \$17 billion, pending negotiations with the contractors on various different claims. Today, I can advise the House that we have concluded those extensive negotiations with the contractors and the full cost of the project will now be in the order of \$19.041 billion.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister is making a ministerial statement. I would like to hear it.

Mr MICKELBERG: This includes the core tunnel infrastructure as well as the associated projects that are critical for the operation of the tunnel but had been hidden in other budget line items by the previous Labor government.

Queensland taxpayers will rightly be asking how it got to this point. There are many reasons, but I do want to highlight the significant delays to the project caused by industrial action led by the CFMEU. This Crisafulli government has taken action to get the CFMEU under control and I am pleased to inform the House that productivity has returned to Cross River Rail. Our government has also made it clear that contractors would be held to account for their performance. That is why there are now elements of funding conditional on exceptional performance and contractors meeting major milestones on time. If they do not deliver, they will not get paid.

I want to take the opportunity to acknowledge the hard work done by the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority and my director-general during these negotiations. I gave the delivery authority very clear instructions that the days of rolling over to the demands from contractors were over. We wanted to get the best deal possible under the circumstances for taxpayers. Linking payments to delivery milestones does that as it provides more certainty for the overall program, as we head towards the expected opening in 2029. This certainty will become more critical as we move into the testing, integration and commissioning phase—something that those opposite ignored.

Cross River Rail is a critical project in our plan to deliver the rail network we need for both the 2032 games as well as for our population growth in coming years. That is why the Crisafulli government has been so committed to getting the project back on track as well as giving Queenslanders an accurate understanding of how much it is going to cost and when they will be able to use it. That is something

that Queenslanders were denied by those opposite. We are pleased to be able to get on with the job of delivering for all Queenslanders.

Gladstone, Deaths; Disaster Preparedness

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.59 am): I extend my condolences to the Gladstone community and the families impacted. I also acknowledge the frontline responders who attended that tragic event in Gladstone.

We have heard a lot of talk about the North Queensland Cowboys this week. A true blue LNP candidate for Hinchinbrook, Wayde Chiesa, called for the Cowboys for many years. I am sure Wayde would love to have been at this year's Get Ready Queensland launch as Rugby League legend Johnathan Thurston kicked it off with the students of Kenmore State High School. The member for Moggill and I were proud to launch this year's Get Ready Queensland campaign. We know that Queensland is the most disaster-prone state in the country, and I am sure everyone in this House has experienced that at some stage firsthand. That is why Get Ready Queensland is so important. Our resilience-building initiative helps communities prepare for severe weather.

Events launched in Brisbane and Townsville were followed by a regional tour, with a Get Ready Queensland team visiting some of our communities hardest hit by this year's record-breaking floods. We connected with Queenslanders from Cairns to Cunnamulla, supporting recovery efforts by helping build greater resilience for the coming disaster season. Community disaster preparedness is core to a more resilient Queensland, and as a government we are committed to driving this work forward. During the week, 'JT' captivated the students of Kenmore State High School at the Brisbane launch and residents of Cunnamulla and Thargomindah in a visit to some of the most flood-affected areas of Western Queensland. This is part of Get Ready Queensland's increased efforts to ensure our disaster preparedness messaging is accessible, inclusive and culturally appropriate.

I encourage all Queenslanders to take steps now to prepare for severe weather. Follow the three steps: to get ready; to know your risk; and to make a plan and pack an emergency kit. Queenslanders know better than anyone the need to be prepared for a disaster, and the three major events this year only reinforced our resolve. The weather does not plan, but you can. Throughout floods, cyclones and bushfires, I have been clear that the Crisafulli LNP government is in it for the long haul.

Social Housing

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.01 am): Queenslanders expect our state's public housing system to be fair, safe and focused on helping those who need it most. For too long that was not the case. Under the former Labor government, nearly half of all public housing tenants had not had a rent or eligibility check for more than five years. That meant 45 per cent of tenants had no checks done to see if they were still eligible or whether they were even paying the right amount of rent. Labor let high-income earners and even property owners live in taxpayer-funded housing while tens of thousands of vulnerable Queenslanders languished on the social housing waitlist.

That is why on 1 July the Crisafulli government reinstated annual rent and ongoing eligibility reviews as part of our strengthened tenancy management approach. This is about restoring fairness and integrity to the system, ensuring as many of our existing public housing properties as possible are there for our most vulnerable Queenslanders while we get on with the job of building record numbers of new social and community homes. Already more than 4,500 rent reviews have been initiated, with over 3,400 completed by our hardworking housing officers.

Today I can update the House that we have now identified 194 households as high-income earners living in social housing. Shockingly, we have now also found 20 public housing tenants who owned property. At the same time, we have also found that for years around one in four tenants were being overcharged on their rent by Labor. The Crisafulli government has acted to reduce these tenants' rent so they only pay what they should have always been paying. Some have seen reductions of up to \$70 a week. For anyone found not to be paying 25 per cent of their income in rent, we have capped any rent increases at \$15 per week throughout the entire year to protect these low-income households from any impacts while we restore fairness to the system.

Fairness goes both ways. It means helping those who are doing it tough and holding accountable those who abuse the privilege of public housing and make life hell for their neighbours and communities. That is why we have also implemented our new antisocial behaviour policy. Housing officers are now

empowered to act where tenants repeatedly damage property, threaten their neighbours, attack or abuse our public servants or engage in illegal activity. In just the first few months of this policy being in place, 2,357 incidents have been actioned under our new framework, including 55 tenancies where notices to leave have been issued for dangerous or repeated antisocial behaviour. For too long the overwhelming majority of our tenants who do the right thing have told us they felt unsafe in their own homes and communities. They were forced to endure violence, threats or drug activity. Under our government, the time of turning a blind eye is over. This policy is about protecting our many outstanding tenants, supporting safe communities and rebuilding respect for public housing as a foundation for opportunity, not a place of fear.

These reforms are strongly supported by our frontline housing officers, who for years did not have the tools they needed to do their jobs properly and take action where it needed to be taken. Now they have a system to properly manage tenancies, and that is exactly what they are doing. We are ensuring that public housing remains a safety net, not a shield for bad behaviour. After a decade of decline under Labor, in just 12 months the Crisafulli government is restoring fairness, safety and accountability to Queensland's public housing system while we deliver new homes in every corner of our state.

Sport, Achievements



Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.06 am): I would like to add to the congratulations the Premier has already extended to Australian sporting legend Ariarne Titmus with her retirement announcement this morning. With 33 international medals—eight Olympic medals, four gold; nine world championship medals; and eight Commonwealth Games medals—Ariarne embodies the Queensland spirit like no other. We thank her and congratulate her on her retirement.

Every day is a good day to be a Queenslander. The last few weeks have been very good for Queenslanders because Queensland is now officially the home of Australian sport! We promised a fresh start, and I cannot believe what I have achieved in the first 10 months as sports minister, with three football premierships: the Brisbane Lions, the Brisbane Broncos and the Brisbane Broncos Women. Ordinarily we are a pretty humble lot, but when it comes to beating two Victorian sides and a New South Wales side it makes it all the sweeter. They wrote us off all through the year, but they have come back magnificently at the end of the year.

The Broncos claimed their first premiership in 19 years, and we congratulate Adam Reynolds, Michael Maguire and the entire team who contributed over that journey. There were plenty of tough times throughout the season, but what they did in the last three weeks of the premiership to come back from behind week after week was unbelievable. There is no doubt they won as a team, but what about that Reece Walsh! What a player.

Of course, our Broncos Women are now the NRLW premiers once again, and Ali Brigginshaw, Tamika Upton, Scott Prince and the rest of the team were fantastic! Even when they were behind, there was no doubt they were going to run over the top of the Roosters, which is exactly what Mele Hufanga did when she scored that try. I am not sure if members understand or appreciate that I was an NRL referee at one stage, and I can confirm it was a try. The team is inspiring more and more young women to play sport. They were just brilliant.

Finally in a Rugby League state we now have the nation's most successful AFL club of the 21st century. Harris Andrews, Lachie Neale, Chris Fagan and the rest of the Brisbane Lions showed that they are not just about dancing on thin ice. With three grand finals in a row and two premierships, it feels like this young side is just getting started. This is the team of a generation—

Mr O'Connor: And the Suns, too.

Mr MANDER: I will mention the Suns. I take that interjection. What a great year they had as well, their first year in the semifinals and their first semifinal win.

The Crisafulli government is proud to back pathways to elite sports for our Games On! infrastructure program and our Play On! sports vouchers, and we will keep backing our Queensland talent. To all our premiership-winning teams I say: you have entertained us, you have occasionally frustrated us, but above all you have made us proud—proud to support you and proud to be Queenslanders.

Environment, Protection



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.09 am): I would like to start by congratulating the Minister for Sport on his outstanding success. I am also delighted to update the House on how the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland's pristine natural environment and the community groups that care for it. I am proud to share that we are delivering 30 new Queensland Indigenous land and sea rangers and that our new funding round is open, ready for applications right across the state. This landmark investment is part of our More Rangers, Better Neighbours commitment to create 150 ranger positions statewide. So far we have delivered 20 new Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers and saved a specialist fire team of 40 rangers that those opposite wanted to cut. Adding 30 Indigenous land and sea rangers is the next step, creating jobs on country and enhancing environmental protection.

The Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program is not just good for the environment; it delivers opportunity, employment and purpose for the next generation of traditional owners. Honourable members have to look no further than Dion Sands, a Gunggandji man from Yarrabah in the member for Mulgrave's community. In 2023 Dion joined the Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate through the Queensland government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, completing a Certificate I in Conservation and Ecosystem Management and later a Certificate III. Now he is a fully-fledged ranger using his new training and traditional knowledge to care for the land and share it with others as a tour coordinator. Dion himself said—

I look forward to coming to work each day and undertaking training motivates me to grow and create a brighter future for myself and my children.

This year Dion was recognised as 2025 Queensland Training Awards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year for Tropical North Queensland. These programs change lives and I cannot wait to see our 30 new Indigenous land and sea rangers follow in Dion's footsteps.

Meanwhile, we know that the best conservation is community conservation. That is why we are backing in grassroots local groups and important projects right across Queensland. We have already allocated funding to eight community organisations, including a number in the member for Moggill's electorate, and have launched the inaugural round of a new grassroots environmental grants program. This initiative will deliver \$800,000 directly to local groups, volunteers and organisations who are doing the work to restore habitats, revegetate land and upgrade facilities.

In Burleigh Head National Park we are delivering \$630,000 to support community led conservation efforts with ongoing funding available for volunteer groups across the park. We are turning the tide on litter and marine debris, working closely with councils to invest \$35 million to upgrade the stormwater network into Moreton Bay. We are also working closely with five organisations across the state to deliver our \$39.6 million commitment to expand the wildlife hospital network, with further updates on this coming soon.

The Crisafulli government is doing exactly what we said we would. We are delivering more rangers, we are backing in our local community groups and we are looking after Queensland's pristine natural environment and sharing it with the world. There is more to do and I look forward to updating the House again soon.

Indigenous Business Month



Hon. FS SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (10.13 am): October is Indigenous Business Month, a time to celebrate the success stories of our First Peoples. Supply Nation report that for every dollar of revenue generated by Indigenous businesses, \$3.66 of economic and social value is created for Indigenous communities, a multiplier effect that demonstrates the extraordinary impact these enterprises have beyond their immediate financial footprint.

In the 2025 financial year the Queensland government procured \$734 million with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses, an increase of more than \$199 million from the year before under Labor. I say that again: \$199 million more compared to Labor's decade of decline. This is possible because the Crisafulli government truly is delivering for Queensland with practical and tangible outcomes and it is using our Queensland businesses, including our Indigenous businesses, to do it. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will provide even more amazing opportunities for legacy impact.

When the 2032 games were announced for Queensland, Labor let the clock start and just sat back without making a plan or taking any kind of action to kickstart preparation. Luckily, Labor is not

competing for us at the games because we have already seen that they forget to actually start running when the starting gun goes off. There is more to Indigenous economic empowerment than government procurement, with wider opportunities also in the broader economy. I have seen this in action with Lox & Co, a hair and body care small business in West End founded by the incredible Janaya. Alongside this business, she runs a hairdressing salon, a salon training academy and a modelling agency. When I met Janaya she told me about some of the young women from Doomadgee whom she trained in her academy and who now aspire to open their own salon. This is amplification of economic and social value creation.

The Queensland Indigenous Business Network and the Murri Chamber of Commerce are excited about the prosperity and future that can be created in this state because Queensland is open for business. There is a great desire to have a strong legacy impact after the games. That is why under the leadership of the economic security team—myself, together with the Treasurer and the finance minister—we will deliver the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic development strategy. This will be developed in partnership with Indigenous Queenslanders. I look forward to updating the House about this.

Labor had announced that they would have a First Nations economic strategy by 2023 but, again, it did not happen—just another broken Labor promise. The Crisafulli LNP government will deliver for Indigenous business and create a better lifestyle through a stronger economy.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.16 am): I advise that the Minister for Primary Industries will be absent from the House for today's sitting. I advise that the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development will answer questions for the Minister for Primary Industries in question time.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Report

Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (10.17 am): I lay upon the table of the House a report of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee titled Report No. 14: 58th Parliament: *Improving Queensland's container refund scheme*. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 14, 58th Parliament—Improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme.

At the outset of this inquiry I expected we were simply looking for ways to make a good scheme better, lift recovery rates, encourage greater participation, improve collection facilities and enhance community benefit. Instead, we uncovered serious failures in governance, management and accountability.

The committee received almost 120 submissions with nearly 30 requesting anonymity. Some praised the scheme; others raised disturbing concerns about its rollout and operation. We heard from whistleblowers and operators who described bullying, harassment and intimidation by Coex staff across multiple sites. There were also allegations that former employees manipulated markets to their benefit, securing new sites at the expense of existing operators.

Evidence indicated that aspects of the scheme's establishment were rushed and poorly planned. Some operators were promised they would be supported through word-of-mouth agreements only to later be presented with one-sided contracts contradicting earlier assurances and offering no certainty about territory or future planning. Others invested heavily in good faith, only to be left stranded by what they allege was the unconscionable conduct of Coex and individuals within it. We also heard allegations of inappropriate audit practices including staff being asked to allow their personal belongings to be searched. Evidence also pointed to serious governance failings, unresolved conflicts of interest and complaints that were not resolved in a timely manner by the former government.

This parliament and the committee cannot ignore the voices of those who have been bullied and harassed. That is why the committee has made 21 recommendations for improvements and yesterday morning referred 10 allegations to the Crime and Corruption Commission for investigation. From the beginning this fused and novel model, approved by the former minister and now opposition leader, raised concerns. That model established a scheme administered by a not-for-profit company owned by two of Australia's largest bottlers, effectively handing them monopoly control. Those same corporations

dominated the board and awarded the main service agreement to a joint venture they owned themselves. In return for loans they gained extra board seats and maintained control long after those loans could have been repaid.

This scheme now turns over nearly half a billion dollars a year, yet only 36 per cent of this is returned to consumers, with less than two per cent going to charities, schools, sporting clubs or community organisations. Despite being a not-for-profit, Coex holds substantial retained earnings with no clear policy for using those funds for environmental or charitable purposes. Instead, it appears those reserves have been used to reduce the bottlers' own contribution rates, effectively transferring value from Queenslanders back to the beverage manufacturers that control the scheme. Let us be clear: it is everyday Queenslanders—mums, dads and kids—who pay for this scheme. They cover the costs of the refunds as they are all built into the wholesale price of every drink they buy.

During our inquiry we reviewed thousands of pages of documentation, departmental correspondence, legal material and a large number of cabinet-in-confidence documents—hundreds of pages—that remain confidential. We also received a copy of a recent Clayton Utz review and the current minister's correspondence, which rightly has imposed stronger governance conditions on Coex. In the interests of transparency and as a proud member of the Crisafulli government, the committee that I chair has resolved to publish that Clayton Utz report.

I want to thank the committee secretariat for its courage, diligence and commitment to what has been a very challenging and difficult inquiry. In closing, I draw the House's attention to a summary of the committee's first recommendation, which asks the Minister for the Environment to consider amending the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to ensure the existing scheme coordinator is subject to stricter oversight or to adopt a governance model that is better aligned with the objects of the scheme and the public interest.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time today will conclude at 11.22 am.

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

 **Mr MILES** (10.22 am): My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Yesterday the House learned the minister's director-general was provided with a copy of the Together union's Unify interim survey results. Has the minister sought additional assurances overnight to guarantee her statements yesterday are a true reflection of the timeline of events?

Ms CAMM: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I am sorry, Mr Speaker: I am just still reeling from the member for Southport's report to the House. I am happy to answer the question with regard to my statements in the House. Let me be clear: on Wednesday, 24 September I received an in-person briefing about the status of Unify—the system developed, created and funded by the former Labor government. That briefing uncovered potential systemic failures created in the functionality of Unify.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford.

Ms CAMM: I then travelled to Thursday Island with the Minister for Housing and spoke to and heard from frontline staff, as I have throughout many months of the year, where I was better equipped to ask questions on the back of that briefing.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers!

Ms CAMM: I then received another briefing via phone by my department on Friday, 26 September. I then stood in front of Queenslanders on Saturday, 27 September and was open and transparent with regard to the concerns I had as the minister for the Unify system and the potential risk that it had on implications with regard to children's safety in the child safety system and those being notified at risk. On Friday, 10 October, while I was on ministerial leave, I received a phone call where I was advised that a survey conducted by the Together union of Unify existed.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield.

Ms CAMM: On Monday, 13 October I was provided a copy of the survey conducted by the Together union.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley!

Ms CAMM: Prior to me receiving a copy—not by the Together union but by my department—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, stop please. The member is being responsive to the question. There are way too many interjections. I want to hear what the minister says.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, you are now warned.

Ms CAMM: I do not think those opposite want to hear my answer. I received a copy. I have now sought a meeting with the union on Friday to understand why it was not provided earlier.

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

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. The minister's director-general was briefed by the Together union on the concerns frontline workers had with Unify in May, yet the question on notice answered by the minister and tabled at estimates provided a glowing review of the system. Was the answer to the question on notice approved by the director-general before being tabled by the minister?

Tabled paper: Answer to Education, Arts and Communities Committee Question on Notice No. 12, undated, asked of the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Amanda Camm.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier! Deputy Premier! We do not need props.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Woodridge has asked his question. I am sure he would like to hear the answer.

Ms CAMM: That question on notice was approved by both my director-general and by me. With regard to that response, at the time that response was drafted the information that I had been provided, that my director-general and my department provided, was accurate, to my knowledge.

Ms Fentiman: She had the survey!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, I will not caution you again.

Ms CAMM: I am advised that the survey those opposite are speaking about—the Together union survey, the survey I spoke about in this House—

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, you are now warned.

Ms CAMM:—the Together union feedback survey—was provided to my department on Friday, not by the Together union. It was then provided to me on Monday, not by the Together union. I have been advised that the Together union provided the survey to a member of my department in June and the chief information officer—

Mr SPEAKER: No, do not use props.

Ms CAMM: I am sorry. The chief information officer who received the survey in June has been stood down. I will be asking the Together union tomorrow, when I meet with it in my office, why the survey was not provided to me when it was provided in June to the chief information officer and to whom the survey was provided in my department. I have been very clear: if information was not provided to my department, to my director-general or to me and was held up by senior officials—

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, I have already cautioned you.

Ms CAMM:—full action will be taken.

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Inala!

Ms CAMM: I have outlined both in this House and in estimates to my knowledge the status of the Unify system, but those opposite do not want to take any responsibility or accountability with—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms CAMM:—five failed ministers. I commenced the timeframe—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister has been using as a prop a copy of a union survey and referring and citing from it. I move under standing order 30—

That the minister table the document.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Resolved in the negative.

Ms CAMM: Mr Speaker, I find it very hard to believe that the opposition—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: You have 10 seconds now.

Ms CAMM: Maybe those opposite want to waste some time because they are worried about the report that was just tabled by the member for Southport and not, in fact, the detail that is all about their failed system.

(Time expired)

Child Protection

Ms DOOLEY: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Will the Premier outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is keeping Queensland kids safe and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for Redcliffe for an excellent question, but it is probably not the main question that Queenslanders will want answered today. I am just starting to read through this report and it certainly exposes some very dodgy practices. The architect of the dodgy Coex scheme is sitting across from me. I have a feeling his tentacles run miles deep into this one. I have a feeling there will be some questions that come out of this report and I look forward to the opportunity to read it.

The member has asked me about keeping kids safe and it is important to us. The failures in keeping kids safe in this state run back over the last decade. It is clear—you only have to look at the 2017 royal commission, the 2017 blue card review, you only have to remember the names Mason Jett Lee, Tiahleigh Palmer you only have to look at the parade of five failed ministers—Fentiman, Farmer, Linard, Crawford and Mullen. In the case of the first, the member for Waterford: rather than finding a cure for the broken system she was listening to the Cure at Splendour in the Grass—that was her response. I looked and there are a number of things that point to a broken system and the commission of inquiry will expose that. The one that I always come back to as the pointer for how broken the child system is the number of kids and the failures of the residential care sector. That is the one that gets me all the time.

I often reflect on the advice I got early on in my time as opposition leader when PeakCare said to me: how can a young person feel loved and wanted and be able to turn their life into something special when there is a different set of eyes looking at them every day when they are putting them down and taking them out? That is the result of growth of that system from \$200 million when they came to office to well over \$1 billion. The number of kids in care has risen 85 per cent over the last half a decade and they just let it happen because of a combination of things—a lack of attention to detail, a lack of accountability because of the rotating door of failed ministers and, above all, a lack of compassion. Good governments are compassionate governments. They care about the vulnerable, they care about those who cannot help themselves.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Police. The Premier said last night that within an hour of finding out about the Crisafulli crime data con the minister updated the Parliament. How can Queenslanders trust data that was recalculated in just an hour?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the question that was asked by the opposition leader. There was a clear inference or imputation in relation to what was asked in the question. It reflects on the Police Commissioner, as well, and I ask for that question to be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Murrumba, is that an exact quote from the Police Commissioner in your question—the language that you just used?

Mr MILES: I was not quoting the Police Commissioner, no. I am happy to rephrase the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Would you ask the question again without the imputation?

Mr MILES: I am happy to, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Police. The Premier said last night that within an hour of finding out about the crime data errors the minister updated the Parliament. How can Queenslanders trust data that was recalculated in just one hour?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for the question. It is an important question and I welcome the opportunity this morning to talk more about it and I look forward to other opportunities to unpack it a bit further. As a former premier, the opposition leader knows how important it is that all Queenslanders have confidence and trust in our policing services. All law enforcement agencies—specifically the Queensland Police Service—needs that social licence of Queenslanders to operate. To do that, they need the trust of all Queenslanders. So we need to make sure that we do everything we possibly can to maintain that trust.

I know—we all know, everyone in this House knows, I do not think anyone could accuse me of exaggerating—there are probably hundreds of police right now doing jobs that none of us would want to be doing, in fact, doing jobs that most Queenslanders thankfully will never have to do. Whether that is processing a crime scene at Gladstone, or helping to investigate a truck rollover in Townsville, we know they are doing that. I want to reflect on my statement yesterday which I made very quickly after the commissioner informed me about it. We all know the Premier's busy schedule. He was on a flight until about 1.15 and things did rapidly evolve yesterday. At the earliest opportunity, I sincerely put on the record my apologies, and I endorsed the commissioner's apologies, because we do not want to undermine the great work that our police are doing right across the state.

It is very disappointing because a 6.5 per cent decline in victim numbers in the first nine months should be celebrated. Our frontline police should be thanked for that—

Mr Mellish interjected.

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

Mr PURDIE:—and we on this side of the House do that. For 10 years we had double-digit growth, compounding year on year, and those opposite refused to look at that data. We saw a 100 per cent increase across all crime classes in 10 years, so our police need to be thanked for that decline.

It is awfully disappointing that this error occurred, which the Police Commissioner, on the public record, has attributed to a coding error. I will not try to explain the coding error around that. If the opposition leader wants a briefing on that coding error from the commissioner, who is better placed to explain it than I am, then I am happy to organise that. It was an error. It has been rectified. The Police Commissioner is on the record on this matter and I am happy to read that in response to my next question.

It is so disappointing that, even in the section of the question that was ruled out of order before and that was in line with the comments that the former premier and opposition leader made in the media yesterday, he was intimating that the Police Commissioner of this state—whom they appointed and we all respect—was a liar. That is undermining the respect of—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr PURDIE: I am more than happy to withdraw.

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

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence.

Mr PURDIE: I withdraw.

Child Protection

Mr WATTS: My question is to the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the minister inform the House how the Crisafulli LNP government is prioritising the protection of Queensland kids, and can the minister provide any instances to the contrary during a decade of decline?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for Toowoomba North for the question. He is a fierce advocate when it comes to all parts of my portfolio. He always welcomes the opportunity to be out in his community, aligned with the important work that we as a government are doing to protect children.

Today the Premier announced that during the debate on Minister Langbroek's bill we will be bringing forward amendments to introduce measures that will further protect children. I remember when, in the dying days of the former Labor government, the reportable conduct and child safe organisations legislation came into this House after a 2017 royal commission recommendation. I was always perplexed by the dates and the timings that were a part of the reportable conduct scheme that was going to be rolled out.

We are bringing forward measures in the interests of the safety of children and to support families. The Premier, the Minister for Education, the Attorney-General and I have heard loud and clear from Queensland parents about their concerns around safety for their children in childcare centres and settings, and that extends to residential care settings and to health and education services. I am pleased that we will be moving amendments to bring forward reportable conduct, to be implemented fully by 1 July 2026. While those opposite were happy for childcare centres and other services to be pushed out into the never-never of 2027, we are acting to protect children.

I will expand upon the Premier's contribution with regard to residential care. Currently, we deal with licensed and unlicensed providers. I have taken action to reform the residential care system, while those opposite endorsed a residential care road map to nowhere. That road map was meant to consider children under the age of 12 years. In the time of five failed child safety ministers, 752 children under the age of 12 were in residential care. That is a 415 per cent increase since 2015. That is the record of the Labor government when it came to protecting children in care and it is the worst of any state jurisdiction. On this side of the House, we are fixing and cleaning up the mess. The cost has gone from \$200 million to \$1.16 billion and growing. The shame is on that side of the House with their failure to protect vulnerable children and their failure to bring in a reportable conduct scheme. We will fix the broken system and we will hold those opposite to account.

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Crime data quoted in the parliament yesterday has not yet been uploaded to the Queensland police website to be independently verified. How can Queenslanders trust this new data, or is it just another victim data bungle?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for the question. As I said in my previous answer and in my ministerial statement yesterday, trust is an important issue, particularly trust in our law enforcement agency, the Queensland Police Service, which I know does a great job. We need to make sure that we maintain confidence in the police, so it is disappointing that that confidence is being undermined. I am happy to seek some more advice about the particular data that the member is referring to and that was mentioned yesterday. As I showed yesterday, at the earliest possible opportunity when a mistake has been made I am more than—

Mr Bleijie: Says the shadow treasurer who washed data in child safety. She is a data washer herself.

Ms Fentiman: No, that's you.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Only one person has the call and that is the minister.

Mr PURDIE: I take those interjections. I was not going to go there, but it is telling that those opposite honestly, in their hearts, believe that the only way we can return community safety to Queensland and protect victims of crime is to dodgy up the data. We know that was their MO. I think psychologists call that projecting. They are trying to project—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! You asked the question. I am sure you would like to hear the response.

Mr PURDIE: As I was saying, I cannot help but think that those opposite are projecting what they did in government onto what they assume we are doing. I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that the Premier and I and our whole team have every confidence in our Queensland police to do the job we have asked them to do, which is to drive down crime, protect victims and return community safety across Queensland. We are doing that by listening to them and giving them what they need to do their job.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba, I have cautioned you a number of times today. You are now warned.

Mr PURDIE: For 10 years, including the seven years that I sat on the opposite side, barring our new members we all raised crime data. We were alerting the former government to the fact that crime rates and victim numbers were going up by 10 per cent a year and they said it was a media beat-up. I really do welcome their current interest, even though it is late, in crime data. Like other members on this side, in my adult life I have spent a lot of time reading crime data, trying to identify the drivers of crime and trying to identify the resources required to protect victims. I welcome those opposite, now in opposition, looking closely at crime data, because they failed to do that for 10 years when in government. It is telling. They are projecting what they did, whether it was hiding hospital health data or failing to release information. I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that that is not the way I operate.

Child Protection

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Minister for Education and the Arts. Will the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government's reforms for child safety, especially in vulnerable settings, are protecting our youngest Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

Hon. JH LANGBROEK: I thank the honourable member for Scenic Rim for the question. As a father of school-age children I know how seriously he takes child safety. I welcome the students from a couple of schools who are in the gallery. Students from Mudgeeraba Creek State School are here with their principal. It is nice to see you here.

Whether they are school-age or early childhood children we know that they are amongst our most precious and vulnerable Queenslanders. Their protection, safety and future cannot be left to chance. The member asked me about alternative approaches. Unfortunately, the previous Labor government left things like child safety to chance by having the Early Childhood Regulatory Authority unfunded from July 2025. How on earth they expected childcare centre regulation to take place without funding the regulatory authority, I do not know. We tried to work out why they did not fund it. We could not find a viable reason. The only reason we could come up with is that they were not up to the job.

We are committed to the safety of children. We have added 29 extra officers. In the budget we have invested \$12.7 million over four years to bolster the workforce, employing an additional 29 full-time Early Childhood Regulatory Authority officers. This means more visits, more safety checks, more peace of mind for parents and an accountable system that holds in the highest regard and of the greatest importance the safety of our children.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: I hear the member for McConnel questioning what I am saying, but there is no doubt that parents around the state have been very concerned about the things happening in childcare centres that have been publicly amplified. In 2017, the previous Labor government loosened staffing requirements at early childhood centres across Queensland. I advise the House that what happened is that staff in more early childhood education and care facilities had lower ratios of staff-to-child supervision during sleep times. Parents and community organisations have strongly voiced their concerns about this.

The Crisafulli government is methodical, calm and measured. We will make amendments to the legislation to restore balance and safety and bring us into line with national standards. We also have to change the culture. I have had three round tables with major early childhood providers and peak bodies to have robust discussions about strengthening the child safe culture within services.

We funded the nation's first formal child safety training package for all childhood staff. Additionally, we have invested \$1 million to deliver practical, hands-on support for educators to enable staff to competently practise the newly released national child safety guidelines. This is so important. We are doing it in partnership with the Australian government.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

Ms GRACE: My question is to the Minister for Police. Yesterday, the police minister said his office asked Queensland police if the victim statistics were correct. Will the police minister table all communications after the meeting inquiry was received on Tuesday, including all messages between his staff and police media in a WhatsApp group?

Mr PURDIE: I appreciate the question. This is the third question on this, and I am more than happy to keep answering these questions. It is disappointing that those opposite are continuing to undermine the great work of our police. The former minister and member knows that there are processes to go through to get that information and we have been fully transparent about it.

The commissioner put out a fulsome statement yesterday. On behalf of the commissioner, I have offered to give those opposite a full briefing on how this occurred and the associated timeline to rectify the situation and put systems in place so that it does not happen again. Going back to a previous question, when they identified there was a problem and the source of that problem, they briefed me and I briefed the Premier. Within a very short time, I briefed the parliament.

This is about undermining the great work of our Queensland police. This is about confidence in the Queensland police. The Police Commissioner is on the record in his statement yesterday that he briefed me yesterday. Within a few hours he told me that they had identified the issue. We had asked on multiple occasions upon receiving the data whether it was validated and checked, as we always do. Off the back of a media inquiry yesterday, it was identified that someone had made a mistake. That has been resolved. The commissioner is on the record outlining that timeline.

I am more than happy to organise a briefing for those opposite to have explained the coding error that led to that situation. The commissioner has guaranteed that it will not happen again. An investigation has been done and systems have been put in place to ensure it does not happen again. We can assure all members of this House and all Queenslanders that next month's data is up to date. The data online now is up to date. It is good and needs to be celebrated.

There has been a 6.5 per cent reduction in victim numbers. Those opposite did not care when it was going up by 10 per cent year on year. They said that it was a media beat-up when they were up 10 per cent year on year. This error is disappointing, but the data is a good news story worth celebrating.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bancroft, you are on the list, as is the member for Lytton.

Mr PURDIE: We need to celebrate the great work of our police. This 6.5 per cent reduction is something that we should be celebrating. It is disappointing that this error was made.

What we do know is that those opposite think the only way we can drive these numbers down is by cooking the books, but it is the opposition leader who is cooked. Every member on that side of the House needs to come in here wearing their tin foil hat because they are all looking like cooks.

(Time expired)

Container Refund Scheme

Miss DOOLAN: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation. Can the minister provide the House with any further information about the troubling concerns raised by the member for Southport in the House this morning about the Containers for Change scheme?

Mr POWELL: I acknowledge that I will never forget the way the Labor Party treated the member for Pumicestone at the last election. Their intimidation was disgraceful and deeply personal. I have never seen such a grubby campaign. The standard you walk by is the standard you accept and, boy oh boy, did the then premier, now Leader of the Opposition, accept it.

Sadly, member for Pumicestone, the campaign against you was not a one-time occurrence. This rotten behaviour was a trademark of the former Labor government. We have heard of little generals running around George Street and 1 William Street disrespecting public servants. We heard about staplers being thrown at staff and staff members being locked in cupboards. Now we hear—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I have no idea how this has any bearing on the question asked.

Mr POWELL: I am coming to it, Mr Speaker. Now we hearing about the damning findings of the inquiry into the container refund scheme as mentioned by the member for Southport today. Today's

inquiry findings expose serious failures and misconduct. I was listening as the member for Southport delivered his report today. What we heard about was consistent bullying, harassment, intimidation and fear. They were the words the member for Southport used.

Firstly, we hear that the legislation introduced by the now opposition leader was rushed and poorly planned and that it—in the words of the member for Southport this morning—baked in systemic failures. Whilst the opposition leader has some serious questions to answer so do the members for Waterford and Woodridge who sat around the cabinet table when they made those decisions. We heard how the model established a scheme administered by a not-for-profit company owned by two of Australia's largest bottlers, effectively handing over monopoly control. This then led to inappropriate board representation and governance failures.

We have heard that 10 allegations have been referred to the CCC. I am interested to know if one of those involves the Leader of the Opposition himself. What was meant to be a not-for-profit company that encouraged Queensland families to recycle, we hear was a cover-up for corruption. In addition to loans, they gained extra board seats and maintained control long after those loans could have been repaid. The member for Southport outlined that the scheme now turns over half a billion dollars yearly yet only 36 per cent of this was returned to consumers and less than two per cent to schools, charities, sporting clubs and community organisations. This was meant to be a not-for-profit company.

The Leader of the Opposition has a lot to answer for. His weak leadership is on full display. This side of the House is committed to transparency and accountability. We remain committed to the scheme and increasing the recovery rate.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

Mr KING: My question is to the Minister for Police. Is it correct that the bungled data was only applied to victims of crimes that occurred after Adult Crime, Adult Time was introduced?

Mr PURDIE: I appreciate another opportunity to address this. The commissioner and I have already addressed this at length, and I have offered to those opposite a briefing from the commissioner to unpack the statistics. What I know about crime data is the hard work police do every day right across the state, entering the data to make sure we have visibility over it. As I said before about this being telling—the previous and other questions—I want to assure those opposite, and all members of the House, that we are tackling crime differently. We are not watering down the laws, reducing police numbers and tying their hands behind their back and defunding the police. We are giving our frontline police the laws and the resources they need to drive down crime.

I want to caution those opposite. I am happy to keep answering these questions, because I honestly believe that they are digging a big hole for themselves when it comes to victim numbers. They honestly, in their hearts, do not believe that it can be done. It is why we saw 10 years—year after year after year—when crime spiralled out of control in this state, when all of us on this side and others were warning them of a pending youth crime crisis that became a youth crime crisis. People lost their hands at that youth crime crisis. They denied it. They denied double-digit growth year on year. Those numbers are coming down and will continue to come down.

Mrs Frecklington: How many times have they said 'victims'?

Mr PURDIE: That is exactly right. I welcome that fact. I think we have heard those opposite mention the word 'victims' more today in question time than we certainly have this year and we certainly have in the 10 years they were in government. I welcome their concern about victim numbers. As I have said in this place before, and what is an undeniable truth right now, there is only one group of people in this state who are praying for the number of victims in Queensland to increase and that is those opposite. I caution them on this tactic.

The Leader of the Opposition is leading them down a path of digging a big hole because we will reduce the number of victims in Queensland. We will continue to do that. We have seen a 6.5 per cent reduction in nine months, after a 100 per cent increase in 10 years. It should be celebrated. We will continue to do that by tackling this problem completely opposite to the way they tackled it. We will give our police the tougher laws they need. We will give them all the resources they need.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for McConnel and the Attorney-General will stop quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr PURDIE: We have a vastly different approach to those opposite. We will listen to our police. We have already given them tougher laws, we have already given them more resources—those opposite watered down the laws—plus we have bolstered numbers on the ground. I am confident we are going to protect victims of crime in Queensland. We will continue to do that, and I am proud to keep talking about it.

(Time expired)

Container Refund Scheme

Ms MORTON: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Regarding the report into Coex that has just been tabled this morning, is the Deputy Premier aware of any concerning revelations contained in this report related to the development of the recycling industry?

Mr BLEIJIE: I had wondered, when the opposition leader, Mr Miles, was the premier, where he came up with policies like the state owned service stations, the free everything, the school lunches—the fiscal irresponsibility of the opposition leader when he was the Premier. Now it all makes sense. If you read the report that has been tabled in the parliament, you see the absolute abject failure when he was not the premier but when he was the minister for the environment. Things in the report, like disturbing—

Mr SPEAKER: Put down the report.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am going to be reading from the report: ‘disturbing rollout’, ‘bullying’, ‘intimidation’, ‘rushed’, ‘poorly planned’, ‘unconscionable conduct’ of Coex, ‘severe failure of the former government to address concerns’. Those opposite were the government when that happened, and it is our government and this committee that have now produced this report.

I am shocked and I am alarmed by the findings of this parliamentary committee report. I am shocked and alarmed that the Leader of the Opposition has sat silent, knowing these issues for years. For example, on page 39 of this report it says that Coex was conditionally appointed as the PRO on 29 November 2017. That was six days after they put their application in, and he signed off on it just before he left the environment department. No tender was issued. It goes on further to state—

Notably, the WRR Act does not stipulate any requirement for a competitive tender or public application process.

...

The appointment process for the PRO was not an open tender.

For such a program—the money we are dealing with—he had no open tender process. The report goes on—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge!

Mr BLEIJIE: I do not know why Labor would be laughing at this report. This report shows the maladministration of the highest order undertaken by the Labor Party.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, I will not caution you again.

Mr BLEIJIE: I would say to the member for Woodridge, as the treasurer who funded this scheme, it is not a laughing matter. It is not a laughing matter! He, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, along with the opposition leader, should stand up in front of the media gallery today and explain himself. On page 147 the report states—

This then begs the question that if the department (and COEX) have been aware of these issues, since as far back as April 2019 when the PwC Health Check occurred, why do they still endure today?

So many questions remain unanswered. The committee finds evidence that Coex repeatedly failed to meet its obligation. The committee referred 10 allegations to the Crime and Corruption Commission. We know that the opposition leader is not up to the job. This spells disaster for him. He should get out and explain himself to the Queensland public today for this shocking report.

(Time expired)

Fraud Protection, AI

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business. Can the minister advise what the government is undertaking to prevent financial fraud occurring using social engineering AI tools that is impacting governments, businesses and communities across the state, including recently Noosa Shire Council?

Mr MINNIKIN: I thank the member for Noosa for the question. I find it very interesting that here we are nearly 12 months into the new government and the number of questions she has asked me matches the number of questions I have been asked by the shadow minister. I would like to explain that the genesis of this question, no doubt, is the news around Noosa Shire Council over the last week. That is why I absolutely thank the member for the question.

The reality is that cyber attacks in this state—in fact, cyber attacks throughout the nation—are on the increase. For the benefit of the member for Noosa, and all members in this chamber, I would like to go through a couple of findings that have come through from a recent report from the Australian Signals Directorate. They released their Annual Cyber Threat Report for 2024-25 which showed that cyber attacks continue to occur, on average, every six minutes in this nation. Every six minutes there is a cybercrime. No doubt that is the reason the member for Noosa is as concerned as we are on this side of the chamber.

In relation to costs, the self-reported cost of cybercrime continues to increase. In fact, it is up by 50 per cent. In the case of businesses, both small and family and SMEs, that is around \$80,000 per reportable business. That is why this needs to be taken seriously, not just in this jurisdiction but throughout the nation.

As a government, we are never complacent, and we are well positioned to protect our assets and the personal data of Queenslanders. We will never ever take our eye off the ball because the more we move towards digital data the more it will mean those protections have to be front and centre of everything we do.

Interestingly, October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month. It is an opportunity to remind people of a range of things that are out there. My department, for example, is using this month as an opportunity, throughout the state wherever I go, to promote the range of activities that we can provide, particularly, for the member for Noosa's benefit, in the small and family business area.

We have a range of programs. I announced earlier this year that we partnered with COSBOA for our Cyber Wardens program, and I invite any member to visit the business.qld.gov.au website to get more information about that. The reality is that COSBOA, working hand in glove with the cybersecurity wardens and the Crisafulli government, is making sure we take cybersecurity to its highest level in this state. I thank the member for Noosa for the question.

Police Resources

Mr KEMPTON: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government prioritising police resources in crime hotspots, and is the minister aware of any approaches that failed to address crime during a decade of decline?

Mr PURDIE: I appreciate the opportunity to answer this question. I know how committed all our members across the state are, particularly our members in Far North Queensland and North Queensland who represent the Cairns and Townsville police divisions and surrounding districts, to ensuring we do everything we can to drive down crime and return community safety to those areas. I am happy to give a delivery update. Members of the House have heard me talking about the largest surge policing operation that the Premier and I launched back in August. It is the most protracted and strategic policing operation in those areas in history—certainly in my time in policing and certainly in the last decade—and the great work they are doing is continuing.

I remind members that the recently bolstered State Flying Squad, whose size was tripled, is supporting the great work that the local police are doing in those areas. We are sending them all of the resources and they are armed with tougher laws to make sure we return community safety to those areas. I might just read these statistics to make sure they are accurate. In the last few months alone in those areas the State Flying Squad has arrested 2,175 offenders for 6,822 offences.

Mr McDonald: Actually locking people up.

Mr PURDIE: Exactly. That is a good point. It is also about restoring justice to the victims of those crimes and their having faster access to justice. As you would imagine in those areas, those crimes include property crime, drug offences, weapon possession and domestic violence.

They have been assisted also with our expanded and permanent Jack's Law. I mentioned the statewide figures earlier this week, but in Townsville alone 1,990 people have been wanded and 11 deadly weapons have been removed from the streets. In Cairns and the surrounding divisions, officers have conducted 3,433 wandings using Jack's Law and seized 17 dangerous weapons.

More importantly, our police have been focusing on that which causes the most harm. We all know about the revolving door of youth justice and the generation of untouchables—those repeat serious violent offenders—that those opposite created. In the last month alone our police have arrested nearly one of them a day, with 33 serious repeat offenders charged with 153 offences and put before the court.

It is not just about holding these people accountable, it is not just about a harsh penalty acting as a strong deterrent; it is about restoring justice to those victims of crime. We know that by locating and returning their car or identifying the offenders who stole their jewellery out of their house and recovering and returning that jewellery to them is important to restore community safety and confidence in our police.

(Time expired)

Trout, Mr M

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Premier. The Premier said he was committed to putting victims first. Why has the Premier refused to condemn LNP heavyweight and former member for Barron River Michael Trout for punching a woman in the face? I table an article which details the court proceedings and the impact of the incident on the victim.

Tabled paper: Media articles, various dates, relating to the former member for Barron River, Mr Michael Trout.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will get a bit of a clarification on the responsibilities of the Premier and the way the question was worded. Member, you seem to be asking about a party organisational matter. From reading the question I have here you are asking about the LNP's position. Could you explain how that relates to the Premier or reword your question?

Mr HEALY: I am asking about the victims. This is about victims of crime, and I have submitted some material to support that. The Premier has made it a priority to highlight the fact that he is working to ensure victims are looked after. I have just raised a concern about where he has not done that and I have provided some evidence. I am just seeking some direction from the Premier.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is an imputation with respect to the Premier in the member for Cairns' response to your query. I just ask you to consider that matter.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I will allow the question, and obviously I will allow a little bit of latitude because of the way it was framed. I will allow you to respond.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am glad you have, Mr Speaker, because it gives me an opportunity to make the following observation. I often question who is doing strategy for the opposition, and I often wonder about the processes behind it.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan!

Mr CRISAFULLI: How could anyone have come up with the idea—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are now warned!

Mr CRISAFULLI:—that the first question the member for Cairns is allowed to ask after the most disgraceful thing we have seen online should be about victims? I want to talk about victims. I do want to take this opportunity to talk about victims because they are important—they are important to me and they are important to Queenslanders. I am proud to have stood beside victims and taken their cause forward.

I want to reflect on the debate today and associate myself with some of the comments of the police minister. I make this point: for the first time in a long time victim numbers in Queensland have

gone down—for the first time in a long time. When I hear the other side questioning the Commissioner of Police and saying he has made a mistake, I think to myself, 'It's an opposition that doesn't get police. They don't understand police. They don't respect police.' I will tell you why: unlike this side of the House, we have—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am aware that you have provided the Premier with some latitude in answering questions, but the key element of this question was about whether or not he would condemn the conduct of Michael Trout. The key tenet of the question was whether he would condemn the conduct of punching the woman in the face.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, I heard that. Your point of order is on relevance.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier is being relevant to the question as asked. He is being relevant, and I would submit to you that he be allowed to continue to respond to the question as asked.

Mr SPEAKER: The question referred to victims as well. I could have ruled the question out of order. I had every right to rule it out of order. I have allowed the question and the Premier may respond.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will tell you why this side of the House understands and respects the work of police. We have people like the member for Lockyer, who has had to pick up the pieces for someone who has been a victim of violence—and I will always condemn that from any individual. We have people like the member for Burdekin, who had a vehicle driven at him when he was policing. We have people like the member for Nicklin, who has had to knock on a door and tell a parent they have lost a child. We have people like the member for Mundingburra, who has had to go to road accidents where people have lost their children. We have people like the member for Ninderry, who has spent his life protecting people and kids against vultures. That is why we understand police. That is why we respect victims.

I will call out bad behaviour against anyone any time. I will condemn it. The other thing I will do is call out a political movement that has made excuses for crime going up year on year for 10 years. What we have seen with this minister is two things: a good working relationship with the commissioner where he has said the data was incorrect and it has been amended; and the number of victims of crime falling in this state for the first time in a decade.

Youth Justice

Mr DILLON: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering rehabilitation and Gold Standard Early Intervention across Queensland, not just in the south-east, and is the minister aware of any approaches that saw this languish under a decade of decline?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have two minutes to respond.

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Gregory for his question. He is a tireless advocate for his community. As the Assistant Minister for Western Queensland, he is also a tireless advocate for the whole of Western Queensland. In fact, I want to thank him for travelling to Mount Isa earlier this year to meet with local community groups and providers about the Crisafulli government's Making Queensland Safer plan and our laws. He heard firsthand from that regional community what they need to be able to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis.

The Crisafulli government will always support our rural and regional communities. That is why today I am so proud to announce that Western Queensland is getting yet another early intervention provider. Mount Isa will be getting an early intervention program—the Brodie Germaine Fitness Aboriginal Corporation has just received a Kickstarter grant from the Crisafulli government thanks to the tireless advocacy of our local members there, including the Assistant Minister for Western Queensland. They will be providing early intervention to the Western Queensland community in the Mount Isa region.

The youth will participate in outdoor wilderness activities, to be mentored by elders and cultural leaders and to participate in family engagement sessions. These programs are designed to give youths the tools they need to turn their lives around so they can turn away from a life of crime and to education, training and employment. These activities give youth the option to head towards a brighter future.

Our Kickstarter grants are all about early intervention programs helping at-risk youth re-engage with education and training and on a pathway to employment and hope. We know that the best way to turn young lives away from crime is to intervene early and give them the support they need to make better choices. That is why we are rolling out more early intervention programs than ever before right across our state including in Western Queensland and the Mount Isa region.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Container Refund Scheme



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (11.22 am): Before question time today, the member for Southport tabled the findings of the parliamentary inquiry into Containers for Change. I will be reviewing the report in full but, based on the member for Southport's comments and my preliminary reading, the findings are nothing short of shocking.

We already knew that under Labor Queensland's recycling rates plummeted and targets were consistently missed. Our government, the Crisafulli government, acted quickly to investigate how this happened but, more importantly, how we chart a way forward. The committee's report is damning and a clear indictment on the failures of the former Labor government. Coex should have served Queenslanders by providing a financial incentive to recycle. As a result of Labor's poor leadership, Queenslanders have missed out on money in their pockets and recyclable materials were sent to landfill.

The report clearly shows that the scheme was flawed from the start. The member for Murrumba, the opposition leader, defiled it. He was the minister who oversaw the establishment of the scheme. Page 7 reveals he ignored committee recommendations on the legislation that governs the scheme. He promised waste industry representation on the board—it was never delivered. Page 40 reveals that he skipped a tender process entirely. Shockingly, pages 12 and 42 outline that he put for-profit companies in charge of a scheme that was meant to achieve not-for-profit environmental outcomes and signed off on a \$35 million loan of taxpayers' funds.

The report reveals that Labor's failure to put proper legislative oversight in place allowed Coex to allow subsidiary for-profit companies to be paid almost \$100 million from the scheme, and there is a table on page 100 of the report that demonstrates this. That was done without requiring ministerial approval. Coex has even paid the same company \$4.3 million for the use of a logo. I refer to page 95.

The member for Murrumba's actions undermine the scheme's integrity. Failure was built in from the start. Coex's operations are overseen by a board. In the opposition leader's own words, it was meant to include an 'independent chair' and independent community interest representation. It is little surprise the opposition leader ignored advice to put waste experts on the board when he appointed his pick for an 'independent chair'. Instead, he set up a sweetheart deal for a Labor mate—none other than three-time Labor candidate for Warrego Mark O'Brien. He had no recycling experience other than his recycled political ambition. The member for Algeester's hands are not clean here either. The member signed off on Mark O'Brien's appointment without hesitation. Tell me: how is a serial failed Labor candidate an independent chair?

Then there is Labor's appointment for the community representative on the board. The member for Nudgee decided the interests of the community would best be represented by a union representative. The member for Nudgee appointed Vivienne Doogan, former president of Together union, to the board of Containers for Change.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am trying to hear the minister.

Mr POWELL: Coex's recent annual report revealed that payments to the board and key management doubled in the last year. No wonder this scheme continues to fail. The facts speak for themselves. Coex have missed every recovery target set for them. Their most recent annual report shows them falling behind even further. Queenslanders have missed out on recycling refunds. Queenslanders deserve better. Labor's scheme is a national embarrassment.

Make no mistake: the report handed down today is a clear and damning indictment on the failures of the Labor government and the Leader of the Opposition, detailing serious allegations of bullying, intimidation and corrupt behaviour. Just as we took action against the actions of the CFMEU, we will take action on this. The committee has made a number of referrals to the CCC. The report makes a number of recommendations and our government, the Crisafulli government, will now review those recommendations to determine the way forward.

However, it is clear that things must change. It was the LNP that first called for the container refund scheme to be established. We remain absolutely committed to the scheme and to increasing the container recovery rate and to ensuring more money makes its way into the hands of Queenslanders and charitable, community and sporting groups around this state.

ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.28 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024, the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Regulation 2024 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025.

Tabled paper: Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.

On Friday, I shared the Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap with Queensland. It is a balanced and pragmatic plan that improves the energy infrastructure we have today while we build what is needed for the future. When I announced the development of the road map in April, I also announced that a review of the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024 would be undertaken to ensure legislation is fit for purpose to deliver an affordable, reliable and sustainable Queensland energy system and facilitate private sector investment in new energy generation. The outcomes of that review are reflected in the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill I introduce today. Upon passage of this bill, the act will be known as the Energy (Infrastructure Facilitation) Act 2025.

We are delivering on the Crisafulli government's election commitment to repeal the former government's renewable energy targets. Clause 9 of the bill repeals part 2 of the act to remove the renewable energy targets and associated review and reporting requirement. Labor's renewable energy targets were always unachievable. Repealing the targets means Queensland's energy system will reflect a more pragmatic approach to our changing energy mix.

The Clean Energy Council has recently reported an investment pipeline in Queensland of more than 4.7 gigawatts of renewable generation capacity in wind and solar under construction or financially committed. That is on top of around 4.2 gigawatts of operational wind and large-scale solar capacity as at June 2025.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock, please. Members, there is too much noise. I know it is the changeover. You can leave the chamber if you want to have a chat, please.

Mr JANETZKI: Renewable energy will continue to play an important role in Queensland's energy system, and that was made clear in the Energy Roadmap. We also need to plan to better leverage our existing energy infrastructure while we build the affordable, reliable and sustainable energy system Queenslanders need for the future. The bill will support system planning guided by revised objectives that balance the affordability and reliability of the state's energy system while keeping view of longer term sustainability.

Clause 14 amends section 16 of the act by replacing the reference to 'infrastructure blueprint' with 'system outlook'. That is important because we know the road to 2030 and beyond will be dynamic, and good energy policy is responsive to system dynamics, technological advancement and innovation.

Our energy system planning framework will identify key strategic infrastructure priorities to deliver an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy system. It also removes unnecessary prescription to enable greater flexibility to adapt to the sector outlook, consumer and community needs, and Queensland's evolving needs. This approach will de-risk Queensland's energy future, ease pressure on the state's balance sheet and ensure legislative settings facilitate private sector investment.

The public ownership targets in the amended act will be strengthened to deliver on the Crisafulli government's commitment to maintain public ownership of critical existing energy infrastructure. Queensland's state-owned power plants are among the youngest and most reliable found anywhere in Australia and the world.

Clause 10 amends the public ownership strategy contained within section 13 of the act. New section 13(1)(a) strengthens the public ownership target for generation to confirm the state will retain 100 per cent public ownership of its existing state-owned operational generation infrastructure.

New sections 13(1)(b) and (c) retain the public ownership targets for transmission, distribution and deep storage infrastructure of 100 per cent public ownership and makes them enduring. These targets are set directly under the legislation with clear, regular reporting requirements.

The Crisafulli government could not be clearer about its commitment to public ownership of existing energy infrastructure. It is the same reason we have committed to \$1.6 billion invested into the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee over the next five years to improve our generators.

The bill also makes amendments to improve, streamline and realign the act's infrastructure frameworks. Industry representatives have consistently told me that they value legislative frameworks to plan and invest in strategic transmission infrastructure.

The bill will replace the renewable energy zone framework with a new investment framework for regional energy hubs. Clause 30 amends the heading of part 6, replacing 'renewable energy zones' with 'regional energy hubs' to rename the framework in this part of the act.

Clauses 31 to 55 provide for the introduction of regional energy hubs as the replacement for renewable energy zones, providing a more streamlined legislative framework and enabling greater flexibility to achieve outcomes. It is important that no renewable energy zone has been declared to this point, and as such it is sensible to ensure that the framework can be reasonably flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances as we work towards declaring our first regional energy hubs. By properly embedding this model into the regional energy hub legislative framework, this bill will provide greater industry certainty and facilitate private sector investment into new energy infrastructure.

The bill enhances the priority transmission investment framework by streamlining and simplifying arrangements to remove unnecessary prescription and processes. This will improve the timely assessment and delivery of efficient and least-cost transmission projects for Queensland.

Clauses 15 to 28 provide for the streamlining and improved flexibility of the PTI framework. Our energy roadmap outlined the investment of \$221 million this financial year into Powerlink's Gladstone Project—a project critical to the long-term stability of Queensland's electricity grid, particularly in Central Queensland. This enhanced framework creates the legislative settings within which this project and future PTI projects can be delivered efficiently to ensure the long-term reliability of power.

Clause 29 omits the expiry date of 31 December 2035 for part 5, enabling the continued operation of the framework in line with meeting the strategic investment path objectives. The operation of the framework may be necessary beyond 2035, a date linked to the 2035 renewable energy target being repealed by the bill.

The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering the CopperString project. CopperString will connect the North West Minerals Province to the national electricity grid, unlocking substantial new economic opportunities for north and north-west Queensland from Townsville, Charters Towers, Hughenden and Richmond to Julia Creek, Cloncurry and Mount Isa. CopperString will also enable investment in new low-cost energy generation, harness the significant renewable resources along the eastern limb and, as I have mentioned, resources industry development along the western limb. This is why CopperString is central to our Energy Roadmap.

Clause 58 introduces a new part 8 titled 'CopperString Project'. The new part contains several divisions which form a legislative framework to support QIC's delivery of CopperString, including opportunities for government to partner with the private sector. Under the PTI framework only Powerlink can deliver transmission projects, and these amendments are therefore necessary to give QIC the legislative authority to meet our promise to deliver CopperString. These amendments represent an important step in our considered approach to establishing the right technical, commercial and legislative settings for CopperString. QIC will continue work on delivery and report to the government as is required.

A key objective of the bill is to streamline and simplify energy legislation to remove unnecessary complexity, prescription and processes. This ensures our legislation is flexible and responsive to evolving needs and sector dynamics and reduces administrative costs.

The bill ends the governance bodies established by the former government under the act. The bill repeals part 9, the Energy Industry Council; the former part 8, the Queensland Energy System Advisory Board; and part 10, the Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate. The Energy Industry

Council has held just one meeting. The Queensland Energy System Advisory Board has held eight meetings in total, two under the former government. I have attended one meeting.

Such governance arrangements do not need to be enshrined in legislation and have rarely been used, particularly under the former Labor government. Any necessary advice on energy issues can be sought more efficiently and flexibly through administrative means as required without the need for complex and costly legislative and governance structures.

I have established the new energy roundtable this year in preparing for and delivering the Energy Roadmap, gathering 93 attendees from across the entire spectrum of the energy sector, listening to the views and learning from the experience of key stakeholders in the energy mix.

Importantly, the Job Security Guarantee and its associated \$150 million fund will be retained as part 7 of the act, providing further confidence to workers in coal communities that under our government they will never be left behind. Under Labor's plan to arbitrarily close coal earlier, tens of thousands of regional jobs were left in the lurch. Our government is supporting these communities by keeping coal running for longer while ensuring there is hope for a long-term future for these great parts of our great state.

This bill delivers on key government election commitments and amends legislative settings to deliver on our Energy Roadmap, including CopperString.

First Reading

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.38 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

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, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 33—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Pair: Perrett, Butcher.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee.

CORONERS (MINING AND RESOURCES CORONER) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 15 October (see p. 3143), on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (11.44 am), continuing: I rise to continue my contribution to the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. Last night I was talking about the missed opportunity that this bill presents to the people of Queensland to enhance safety across the mining and resources sector and those who work in that sector. It is not just safety onsite. It is the psychological safety of miners and those in the industry, it is the safety of workers as they travel to and from mine sites and it is the safety of workers in terms of ongoing health implications from working in

that sector—that is, illnesses that may manifest themselves long after those workers finish their employment.

We have seen contributions from those opposite dismissing the opposition's concerns in respect of the narrow scope of this bill, but it is a fact that was confirmed by those opposite. I wish to clarify remarks that I attributed to the mines minister last night. They were actually remarks that should have been attributed to his office. Nonetheless, I am sure the minister endorses those remarks because they came from his office. For the sake of clarifying the record, I was referring to remarks attributable to the mines minister's office. Those remarks highlighted—

The scope of the Mining Coroner's investigation will be anchored around mining safety because mining safety in our resources sector is not negotiable.

Everyone agrees with that concept. What we do not agree with is that that is where it should stop. It should go beyond the safety of those workers on the mine site; it should go towards the psychological safety of those workers, it should go towards the safety associated with those workers being fatigued as they travel to and from their workplace and it should go towards their ongoing safety and health with respect to illnesses that may manifest themselves long after they have completed their employment in that sector.

We are all in agreement when it comes to enhancing safety on mine sites. It is something that has motivated the Labor Party for its entire existence. This is a sector that is important to Queensland but it is also a sector that, by its very nature, comes with more risks than a lot of other industries and sectors around Queensland. That is why we need to send strong messages to employers in the sector that, when we are taking actions around the health and safety of workers, we are not constraining the scope and ability of the mining coroner to hold employers in the broader sector accountable for the safety and ongoing health of workers in the sector.

I will conclude my remarks on the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. I note that this again is a missed opportunity. The Labor opposition says it should go further and the scope should be broader because that would send a strong message to the sector that the safety of workers in this sector is paramount. We should do everything we can to enhance the safety of those workers.



Mr BAILLIE (Townsville—LNP) (11.47 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. At the outset I would like to acknowledge those who have lost their lives whilst working in the mining and resources industry and also acknowledge their families. I would also like to acknowledge the ministers who have contributed to this bill and the committee for their work in considering the bill.

The Queensland mining and resources industry has been the backbone of our state's economy and prosperity for more than a century. In North Queensland it has built our towns, contributed to our communities and given generations of families the opportunity to enjoy the lifestyle and prosperity they do, from some of our state's most remote townships to our biggest cities. In my electorate of Townsville, you do not have to look hard to see the contribution of mining and resources. Townsville is the capital of North Queensland and proud to enjoy an active role in the mining and resources industry, with many in our community either working for the industry locally or driving in and out or even flying in and out. For every miner working out west, there are dozens of workers in Townsville who are keeping them going—in workshops, transport yards, engineering firms and service stations. Every day we see trucks rolling through the port gates, minerals processed at the refinery and local businesses, including tradies and trade operators, contributing to keep the mining and resources industry going.

The mining and resources industry supports tens of thousands of jobs across Queensland. It is important to recognise that the mining and resources industry provides more than just direct and indirect employment to tens of thousands of Queenslanders; the mining and resources industry injects billions into our economy every single year. The mining and resources industry contributes significantly to our hospitals, our schools and our roads—services that every Queenslanders relies on. There is no doubt that the mining and resources industry is critical to Queensland and indeed North Queensland.

Having previously worked in a company that served the mining and resources industry, I know how much the industry values their employees and the safety of everyone working in that industry. The mining and resources industry goes to great lengths to ensure every worker who heads out to site returns home to their family or loved ones when their shift is over. Work in the mining and resources industry is tough and it is certainly not for everyone. It is often hot, it is heavy and it operates in some of the most remote parts of Queensland. Given how remote a lot of these worksites are in relation to hospitals and emergency services, the impact of a mistake or accident that results in injury is amplified.

That is why safety has to come first, because one mistake or one shortcut can cost a life. We acknowledge mistakes and accidents can occur. However, on those occasions that such an event occurs and a life is lost, efforts should be exhausted to understand if there was anything that could have been done differently that would not have resulted in such a tragic loss.

When a life is lost on a mining or resource worksite and there is an opportunity to make the industry safer, we should make every effort to learn how to prevent further deaths. This bill recognises how critical the mining and resources industry is to Queensland and how much we value the workforce that serves it. It establishes a dedicated mining and resources coroner to conduct investigations and mandatory inquests for all mining related reportable deaths including accidental deaths that result from mining related injuries on mines, coalmines, quarries and certain petroleum and gas sites.

In comparison to other industries, there is also a lot that is unique to the mining and resource industry worksites. The Mining and Resources Coroner will have the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of these unique industries and access to experts and specialist technical advice. Once established, the coroner will not only determine the cause of the death to prevent similar deaths occurring in the future, but also keep mining companies accountable. In keeping with the current coronial framework, the Mining and Resources Coroner will carry out general coronial work when not performing mining related work, contributing to reducing the backlog of cases and easing the pressure on the coronial system. All findings handed down by the Mining and Resources Coroner will be made public and recommendations and comments must also be provided to the Attorney-General, other relevant ministers and the CEO of Resources Safety & Health Queensland to prevent similar deaths. The public disclosure of the findings will ensure transparency and drive accountability.

The Queenslanders who work in the mining and resources sector deserve to be safe. Should there be a mining related reportable death, they deserve for it to be investigated and, where the cause is identified, steps to be put in place to prevent deaths from occurring under similar circumstances in the future. The introduction of the Mining and Resources Coroner will improve outcomes and enhance the safety and wellbeing on those worksites. By supporting this bill, we are sending a clear signal that we value the mining and resource industry workers and their safety. That is why I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (11.54 am): Every worker deserves to go to work and come home in one piece to their families each and every day. I was a geologist at Anglo American's Moranbah North mine in 2022 when Gavin Feltwell was tragically killed at this very site. I did not personally know Gavin, but I will never forget the mood on the ground when I got back from my shift only days later. Of course, in the first instance I did not know if there would be a shift to go back to after the tragedy occurred. There is not a more stark reminder of our mortality than when one of your colleagues gets killed at the same place you work.

Gavin deserved to return home that day. His family deserved for him to return home, too. It is people like Gavin and hundreds more who have been killed in our mines in our state that remind us of the need to do better. Unfortunately, too many times in this House I have called out the previous government for not having done enough, with many safety outcomes in Queensland's mining sector declining over the last decade.

I have also had the experience of working on the ground in mine sites in both New South Wales and here in Queensland. I know firsthand that New South Wales was a lot more proactive and practical and worked a lot better hand in hand with industry. This in itself means that I know Queensland has to do better, and I will keep working with the minister for resources to make sure we do better.

This legislation brings an important change that will help mine safety in Queensland, but we know there is so much more to do. We live in a resource rich state with the mining industry providing the backbone for the Queensland economy. Now that we have a Queensland government that works actively with the people of Queensland we can expand on the fresh start we are giving this state by collaborating to ensure safety where people live and, of course, promote more prosperity and growth across all aspects of our economy.

Through this amendment bill the Crisafulli government is prioritising the safety of our mining and resources workers. Labor's record is that in 2001 they axed the important mining warden's court. This bill delivers on an election commitment to establish a dedicated mining and resources coroner and restores a vital justice service to the sector that has been missing. The coroner's position will be appointed by Governor in Council.

The aim of this bill is to provide more timely answers and certainty to families of loved ones in the instance of a fatality. The Attorney-General has outlined a lot of the detail and the minister for

resources has also outlined a lot of detail as to how this is an appropriate change and it is targeted in the right manner. The coroner will be responsible for conducting investigations and mandatory inquests for all mining related reportable deaths. This importantly removes the previous discretion of a coroner to make the decision on whether to conduct an inquest. These investigations include accidental deaths that result from mining related injuries on mines, coalmines, quarries and certain petroleum and gas sites.

The coroner may also choose to conduct inquests for reportable deaths outside the scope, including deaths due to self-harm or when commuting to and from work if it is in the public interest. 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 on a mine site accommodation is found to be linked with an operator's failure to meet safety and health obligations. This is an important note and discounts a lot of the misinformation being spread by those opposite.

I also note the committee comment about associated deaths. The committee is of the opinion that the definition of a mining related injury and mine area as provided by the bill is sufficiently broad and provides sufficient scope for the Mining and Resources Coroner. The committee also notes that a death resulting from a mining related activity not covered under the definitions provided in the bill would still be subject to a coronial investigation or inquest if found to be in the public interest.

Further, I want to talk about more of the claims of those opposite. In this debate they keep referring to the MEU's submission on suicides in the mining industry—and they are far too high. As the representative of a rural electorate, primary industries more broadly have suicide rates that are far too high, but I also want to flesh this out a bit. Those opposite are talking about national statistics. I do not know for what period those statistics were captured—I did not have a chance to clarify that—but here in Queensland we have had a Labor government for the past 10 years. What was it doing for those 10 years if it thought the mining suicide rates were far too high?

Mr Bennett: A really good question.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection from the member for Burnett. There are many other jurisdictions that are run by Labor governments and those statistics likely reflect those states, so I ask: what are they doing?

Amendments have been circulated and spoken about by those opposite with regard to travel to and from work. As a former employee of the sector, I know that mining companies regularly have stringent policies with regard to travel to and from work. The opposition's amendment as written references 'at the time of the accident', and I could go on, but essentially a company could have a policy in place that says that that person must finish their shift at a certain time and stay in camp overnight—for instance, I lived and worked in a workplace that had policies like that—but the worker could ignore that policy and then start to travel home and be killed in an accident en route, and that accident would then become the responsibility of the Mining and Resources Coroner.

There may be other tragedies that occur during transit. In one of their examples, those opposite even talk about lunchbreaks offsite. If a company has provided an appropriate facility onsite for lunch and then a tragedy occurs offsite, those opposite want the Mining and Resources Coroner to investigate those deaths. They want them to become a mining related reportable death. The reality is that this would take away from the core focus and the core purpose of the Mining and Resources Coroner and will ensure it will have to spend time, effort and resources on other matters that, frankly, may not be mining related. This in turn will impact on the benefit that this coroner can provide to the state. I could list many examples showing how the nature of this amendment could tie up the resources coroner, but I will not trivialise premature deaths at all. Therefore, the scope that has been put forward is appropriate to do what is needed in this state.

Regardless, any death that is reportable must be investigated by the coroner. The coroner's investigation will primarily determine the identity of the deceased person, the place, the date and the medical cause of death. The determination of cause of death will also provide information and prevent similar deaths happening in the future and keep companies in the resource sector accountable, and the Mining and Resources Coroner will only commence inquests once any criminal proceedings are finalised and those recommendations will be provided to the Attorney-General and other relevant ministers and the CEO of RSHQ.

This is a good bill and I fully support the Attorney-General and the Minister for Natural Resources in implementing this change. When the Mining and Resources Coroner is not performing mining related

work, it will be helping in the justice system with other coronial work. This bill is about prioritising safety for the mining and resources sector by establishing this coroner. Unfortunately, those opposite seem determined to find a political angle that is, frankly, grasping at straws in the broad context of other avenues to address the issues they have raised.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HEAD: I said: in the broad context of everything else that addresses the problems that those opposite have raised. They had 10 years to fix many of these problems but did not. I thank the minister for coming to Moura recently for the Miners Memorial Day.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr HEAD: I take the movement from the member opposite, who I understand is on a warning. Nonetheless, I will take the member for Logan's participation in the debate in that he was also in attendance. It was 50 years since the Kanga mine disaster. That was a tragedy that hit that mining community. That community has had far too many mining deaths in its history and there are still many family members there today, but I thank the minister for coming. It was a very fitting memorial service for the many miners who lost their lives in the several tragedies there. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (12.04 pm): I rise to contribute to the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. Queenslanders and the resources industry deserve much more than the failed Labor government and its decade of decline. They deserve a fresh start that the Crisafulli government is delivering, and this legislation does just that. The Queensland resources industry has been the backbone of our state for generations. Across my electorate I have oil and gas reserves in the Cooper and the Surat Basin. In the 2023-24 financial year, the Queensland Resources Council report card estimated that the Warrego electorate contributed \$1.1 billion and supported over 4,000 jobs.

I have visited many of the gas fields, the well sites, the wells under construction and the compressor sites and the workers' camps associated with the gas industry. From firsthand observations, I know that the petroleum and gas industry takes safety seriously. It also takes the welfare of its employees very seriously. Sadly, we have lost workers due to accidents and I can recall people passing due to heat stroke, and that is certainly something that is absolutely preventable. The prevention of accidents is always better than picking up the pieces after an accident. It is better for the family. It is also better for the workplace. That is why this legislation is important, as it will help identify how accidents can be prevented.

This legislation establishes a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner to conduct coronial investigations and mandatory inquests for all mining reportable deaths. It removes the previous discretion of the coroner to conduct an inquest into a mining related death. The legislation includes the accidental deaths that result from mining related injuries on mines, coalmines, quarries and certain petroleum and gas sites. This bill is all about the workers. It is the workers who put on the hi-vis every day and the families who rely on those jobs and the small businesses that keep those local communities going—the small businesses in communities like Dalby, Tara, Roma and, further to the west, Thargomindah and Quilpie.

Everyone in Queensland benefits from the strength of the resources sector. The Crisafulli government recognises that, and we are determined to make sure those benefits continue to flow for generations to come. However, we also know that prosperity brings very little if it comes at the cost of safety. Every worker deserves to come home at the end of their shift. That is why this bill matters so much. It is about the accountability and transparency and learning lessons to prevent future tragedies. All findings and recommendations will be made public and shared with key agencies, including Resources Safety & Health Queensland, so the lessons are learned across the entire industry.

This reform delivers on a key Crisafulli government election commitment. We are doing what we said we would do and delivering for Queenslanders. It is about restoring trust and strengthening safety, honouring the contribution that every worker in our resource sector gives. For the people of Warrego, for the people of the state, for our gas workers, for our miners and for their families, this bill is about fairness, accountability and respect. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (12.07 pm): I want to start by acknowledging those who have lost their lives in the mining and the resources industry and their families. Mining is more than digging up rocks in the ground; it is power and steel, it is roads and hospitals and it is jobs and livelihoods. Mining and the people who work in the industry are the backbone of North Queensland and my

electorate of Mundingburra. The Crisafulli government will always support those who support our great state, and that is why I rise to speak on the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill.

This bill was a key election commitment of the Crisafulli government and we are a government that delivers on our promises. It prioritises the safety of those who work in the industry. It goes further to provide support to the families, and this bill restores a vital justice service for the sector. The bill establishes a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner to conduct coronial investigations and mandatory inquests for all mining related reportable deaths. There will no longer be discretion over this. Inquests will be conducted for all mining related reportable deaths. This includes accidental deaths that result from mining related injuries on mines, coalmines, quarries and certain petroleum and gas sites. All findings handed down by the Mining and Resources Coroner will be made public. Recommendations and comments must also be provided to the Attorney-General, other relevant ministers and the CEO of Resources Safety & Health Queensland. Why? To prevent similar deaths.

Mining is not for the faint-hearted. Many of our workers are away from home for periods of time working 12-hour days, out in the elements, underground or at heights. They come back to camp covered in dirt, exhausted and they back it up again the next day. These are high-risk environments and if safety is not always No. 1 on the priority list, that is when we lose lives. That is why this bill is so important. We need an inquest into every mining-related death—not just because we want more paperwork but because of the recommendations that will come from it. We do not just implement this bill and walk away; we implement this bill and then we take action on the recommendations that come out of each and every inquest. We take the safety of our mining men and women seriously. We will do everything we can to create safer working environments for them.

We are also doing this for their families. We have listened to the voices of families who have lost their loved ones in our state's mines and quarries. They want more support, more information and greater transparency over the results of investigations. One of the most important aspects of our coronial process is timeliness. For families who have lost a loved one in the mining and resources sector, long delays in receiving answers only adds to their pain and frustrations. These families deserve a process that is not only thorough and independent but also responsive and respectful. Timely findings are vital not only in providing families with closure, but ensuring any lessons learned can be acted on swiftly to improve safety and prevent future tragedies. It is important to those on this side of the House that we provide that; that is why this bill must be passed. We are also taking this a step further by establishing a position to provide family and liaison engagement throughout the coronial investigation and inquest process. It is important that families are supported, informed and provided with the avenues to engage external agencies should they need it.

As the member for Mundingburra and the assistant minister for North Queensland, I have heard many stories of our men and women out at the mine sites. These are our friends, our neighbours and our families. I would like to thank the Attorney-General for putting this bill forward, the Minister for Resources for his tireless efforts in progressing this bill and the Primary Industries and Resources Committee who recommended that the bill be passed. The Queensland resource industry benefits everyone in this state. The Crisafulli government is dedicated to ensuring these benefits continue to flow for generations to come. We can only achieve this if we prioritise the safety of those who work in the industry and continue to strive for constant improvement. We must do better for our workers and we must look after our fellow Queenslanders. I commend this bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Before I call the honourable member for Theodore, I would like to draw the House's attention to the presence in the gallery of students from Benowa State High School in the electorate of Southport. You are very welcome here.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.13 pm): I rise today to make a contribution to the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill, a piece of legislation that restores accountability within this crucial industry. The mining and resources industry is clearly represented on the Queensland Coast of Arms, highlighting the importance of this sector to Queensland's development. The hallmarks of the wealth of our state, our local towns and our cities and even in this place directly come from this important industry. The workers of this industry need to be treated with the highest respect, for it is their blood, sweat and toil that has helped to create wealth of all in this state. This bill is, therefore, a testament to the respect we owe to these workers for what they have done.

The proposed amendment establishes the role of a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner, specifically designed to conduct coronial investigations and inquests for mining-related reportable deaths. This legislation is a significant shift in how we address these tragic incidents. It removes the

previous discretion that individual coroners had regarding whether to investigate a mining-related death. It ensures every such incident is treated with the seriousness it warrants.

This bill encompasses a broad range of accidental deaths that result from mining-related injuries on mines, coalmines, quarries and certain petroleum and gas sites. By mandating these inquests, we establish a framework in which every reportable death is subject to thorough examination. This not only serves to uncover the truth behind each tragedy but also plays a crucial role in preventing similar occurrences in the future. However, it is essential to clarify that the scope of the Mining and Resources Coroner's duties extends beyond just mine-related deaths. The coroner may also choose to conduct inquests into reportable deaths that fall outside this immediate scope; for example, deaths through self-harm—such as suicide—or those occurring in in commutes to and from sites can be investigated if deemed to be in the public interest.

It is important to note that while a mine-related reportable death does not include deaths that are intentionally self-inflicted, there can be circumstances that warrant further investigation. For example, if a worker tragically takes their own life while residing in accommodation on a mine site, the Mining and Resources Coroner can delve into the case to determine whether any conditions or failings related to the mine's operations contributed to that death. This allows examination in the broader context and to hold operators to account for their responsibility towards the mental health and safety of their miners. Moreover, deaths occurring on public roads such as those involving workers commuting to and from these mine sites that fall outside the mandatory scope can also be investigated. Therefore, this bill creates a broad range of areas of investigation for the coroner.

As we navigate the complexities of this legislation, it is important to acknowledge that the primary role of the Mining and Resources Coroner will not only be to ascertain the cause of death but also to ensure mining companies are held to account for their operations. The insight gained from these investigations can lead to critical changes in practice, ultimately safeguarding the lives of workers in the industry.

In keeping with the existing coronial framework, it is also critical to emphasise that the Mining and Resources Coroner will not conduct inquests until any related criminal proceedings are finalised. This measure is essential to uphold the integrity of the legal process and ensure justice is served appropriately. In addition, to focus on mining-related cases, the mining resources coroner will also engage in general coronial work when they are not occupied in mining-specific investigations. This dual role is vital in addressing the existing backlog of cases within our coronial system. By alleviating the pressure on our current resources, we can ensure all reportable deaths are investigated in a timely and efficient manner and provide families with the closure they need and seek. This bill is about more than a legal obligation; it is a promise to protect and honour the lives of those who work tirelessly in our mining sector.

The Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill represents a significant step forward in our approach to addressing mining related deaths. It establishes a dedicated framework for investigations that prioritise accountability and safety. It fosters a mining industry that respects the lives of the workers—workers who bring an enormous amount of wealth into our state. This is something that we certainly do owe those workers. Even in the electorate of Theodore on the northern Gold Coast we have fly-in fly-out workers who work tirelessly for our state and who make our state a richer place. It is critically important that those people return home safe and well to their families. It is something that we as a state owe those individuals.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Theodore, please resume your seat. In accordance with the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this part of the debate having expired, I call on the Attorney-General to reply to the second reading debate.



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (12.20 pm), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their contributions to the debate on the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. Aside from the contribution of the honourable Minister for Mines, I want to specifically acknowledge the significant contributions of my colleagues the member for Burnett, the member for Mirani and the member for Mackay, who sit on the committee. During the course of the debate they provided this House with particular insights into their electorates and the positive impact this will have.

The Crisafulli government is committed to improving safety in our important resources sector. Through this bill we will deliver on that commitment and restore a vital justice service. The bill ensures that all fatal accidents on the state's mine, quarry and coalmine sites and certain petroleum and gas sites are thoroughly examined by a dedicated mining and resources coroner.

I will now address some of matters raised by honourable members during the debate. The member for Gaven tried to tell the House that the bill does not go far enough. She would have the House believe that we are mocking the experts by delivering a bill that represents another broken promise. I could not disagree more. The member for Gaven said that the bill is mere symbolism and that, in its current form, it is too narrow and does not honour an election commitment. The member for Logan said that the bill gives the coroner a new name, a title and a requirement to examine a minority of deaths in the mining industry but it stops the majority of deaths being examined by the coroner. That is completely false.

Throughout the debate it has become clear to me that the opposition simply do not understand how the coronial system in Queensland works. Not only is there a misunderstanding about what this bill does; if they understood the bill correctly, they would know this bill strikes the right balance to ensure deaths are properly investigated. To assist, I want to clarify the difference between a coronial investigation and a coronial inquest. A coroner is required to investigate all reportable deaths. This means that any death that is considered a reportable death under section 8 of the current Coroners Act must be reported to a coroner and investigated. To clarify, any death that is violent or otherwise unnatural will be reported to a coroner and will be investigated. This includes suicides and car accidents. Those deaths will be reported to a coroner and will be investigated. Nothing in this bill changes that.

The bill requires all mining reportable deaths to be subject to an inquest. An inquest is the next step in a coronial investigation. The inquest is a court proceeding that allows a coroner to hear and gather information and evidence surrounding a death and to make comments and recommendations to prevent similar deaths from occurring in the future. In most cases, coronial investigations do not proceed to an inquest. There are certain types of reportable deaths that require a mandatory inquest to be heard and, if the bill is passed, a mining related reportable death will fall into that category. For all other reportable deaths, including suicides, it is up to the discretion of the coroner, following an investigation, to make a determination whether an inquest is appropriate. Section 28 of the Coroners Act provides an inquest may be held into a reportable death if the coroner is satisfied that it is in the public interest to hold the inquest. The bill does not change that.

The bill requires all mining related reportable deaths to be investigated by a dedicated mining and resources coroner and that the inquest must be conducted. All other reportable deaths such as suicides and deaths in transit are still required to be investigated. The Mining and Resources Coroner will have the discretion to decide whether an inquest should be conducted based on the information arising out of the investigation into those deaths.

The member for Gaven asserted that, instead of a mining warden's court, the bill provided for a mining and resources coroner whose powers are so limited that they will only investigate two to four deaths per year, touching two per cent of matters. This comes from the party that abolished the court altogether. That information is again incorrect and misleading. The member for Logan also questioned why the bill did not re-establish the court. I make it clear: the power of a coroner surpasses any of the powers afforded to the former mining warden's court.

The Mining and Resources Coroner will utilise the existing coronial framework and will have the full powers and functions of a coroner to conduct investigations and inquests for mining related reportable deaths. Importantly, those powers include the ability to order a person to give evidence as a witness, including self-incriminating evidence, which is a power that is only afforded to coroners and is not included as a power under the former court. The ability to compel self-incriminating evidence is paramount to the operation and effectiveness of the Coroners Court. It is through this power that evidence is provided, allowing details to be ascertained about systemic failures on mine sites. Through this evidence, coroners are able to make meaningful findings and recommendations to prevent similar deaths from happening in the future.

In terms of case load, whilst it is expected that the Mining and Resources Coroner will consider an average of two to four mining related reportable deaths a year, this does not include the matters within the general coronial jurisdiction that the coroner will also have carriage of. When the Mining and Resources Coroner is not dealing with mining related matters, they will undertake general coronial work including investigating other reportable deaths. The rationale behind this approach is that the dedicated coroner will have sufficient capacity to undertake investigations and inquests into those complex mining related matters.

The bill does not seek to change the way suicides are handled under the Coroners Act generally. Non-government members of the committee raised concerns that the bill excludes deaths from self-inflicted injuries from the mandatory scope of the Mining and Resources Coroner. In their

submission to the committee the Coronial Assistance Legal Service submitted that suicides should be a scaled approach where suspected suicide cases are reported and investigated by the Mining and Resources Coroner, with the holding of an inquest to be at the discretion of the coroner. That is exactly what this bill does as those deaths are reportable deaths under section 8 of the Coroners Act.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Gaven, order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is so difficult in opposition, I understand. If only they could listen. Under section 8 of the Coroners Act, unnatural deaths must be investigated—not ‘may’. I know law 101. It is not ‘may’; it is ‘must’. 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. All suicides will be investigated by the coroner and if it is found to be in the public interest an inquest will be conducted. This bill delivers on what stakeholders asked for.

The member for Gaven quoted statistics from the MEU that indicated suicide rates are 80 per cent higher in the mining, construction and energy sectors than in the general Australian population. It is important to note these statistics encompass other sectors outside of the Mining and Resources Coroner’s remit. Regardless of this, the Crisafulli government does not downplay—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Oh my goodness; I take personal offence to that and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Which member made the statement to which you refer?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The member for Bundaberg just made the most defamatory and awful comments I have ever heard in this House.

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I deal with your point of order, I will deal with the Attorney-General’s one. Member for Bundaberg, the Attorney-General has taken personal offence at something you have said, would you withdraw.

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I will deal with this point of order—

Government members interjected.

Mr SMITH: No, there is a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will comply with my direction. The Attorney-General has taken personal offence to something that she says you have said.

Mr SMITH: And my point of order is to that point of order. I did not mention the Attorney-General at all and I am very happy for you to review the tape. I was talking about the member for Rockhampton. I even said the word ‘Rockhampton’. I am happy to withdraw for the member for Rockhampton.

Mrs KIRKLAND: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you are warned under the standing orders. Rising on a point of order and having the microphone for that purpose is not an invitation to prosecute a debate across the House. I will take some advice. Member for Bundaberg, I understand you deny having said something directly to the Attorney-General, is that correct?

Mr SMITH: Yes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the basis of your assurance, there is no point of order.

Mrs KIRKLAND: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at what were very derogatory statements.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken personal offence. There is no need to make a statement.

Mrs KIRKLAND: I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, did you make those remarks?

Mr SMITH: I previously withdrew for the member for Rockhampton. I will withdraw again for the benefit of the record.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your withdrawal.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand that, in your consideration of those points of order, you issued a warning to the member for Bundaberg, the circumstances of which were later clarified and you accepted his point of order. Respectfully, I wonder whether, in resolution of this matter, that warning should also be dismissed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your guidance, Manager of Opposition Business. The warning pertained to disorderly conduct in what I saw as arguing or throwing barbs across the chamber to another member whilst the member was on his feet on a point of order. That is disorderly. Member for Bundaberg, your warning under the standing orders still applies. You are on notice, member for Bundaberg.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Regardless of this, the Crisafulli government does not downplay the seriousness of suicide in Queensland. As a founding member of the South Burnett Suicide Prevention Working Group, I take offence to anyone in this House who alleges otherwise.

We acknowledge the importance of mental health, including the member for Rockhampton, in our mining communities. We acknowledge and recognise that safety is a paramount concern for the resources industry. That is why we are here with the Minister for Mines debating this bill today. That is why any reportable death, including a death by suicide, must be reported to and investigated by a coroner.

According to Resources Safety & Health Queensland data, four suicides—four suicides too many—have been reported to the independent regulator in Queensland's resources industry between 2021 and 2025. RSHQ is currently working closely with the resources industry to provide clarity on existing obligations and ensure Queensland's resources safety laws align with broader state and national frameworks in relation to managing psychosocial hazards in the workplace.

It is not often that I will say this; however, I agree with the member for Greenslopes to this extent. That is why RSHQ has policies and procedures in place to ensure early detection, public reporting and ongoing monitoring of mine dust lung diseases. As noted by the member for Greenslopes, things have progressed significantly in the past decade. It is not the role of the Coroners Court to manage these types of matters. It is the role of our work health and safety bodies to report, investigate and ensure compliance with the wealth of work health and safety legislation.

This bill compliments the existing framework within the resources sector in terms of identifying and managing psychosocial hazards in the workplace. Any amendments seeking to alter how the coronial jurisdiction manages suicides are therefore unnecessary and would have unintended consequences on the timeliness of investigations within the coronial system and the stakeholders involved, including, most importantly, the families of the deceased.

We have heard from Minister Last that RSHQ take suicides by mining workers incredibly seriously. He noted that the bill 'unapologetically enhances the scrutiny of the resources sector to improve safety'. I could not agree more. Mining companies have a legislative obligation to actively manage psychosocial risks. RSHQ supports them with guidance, tools and a dedicated psychosocial team to respond to incidents and concerns. This recognises that health and wellbeing are just as important as physical hazards. RSHQ's work is continuing to ensure industry and peak bodies have a say in how our laws could be strengthened, and more must always be done. This bill strikes an appropriate balance—maintaining the current position that all reportable deaths are investigated by a coroner, whilst ensuring the coroner retains discretion to determine whether inquests should be conducted for matters that are outside the scope of a mining related reportable death.

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. The member for Gaven incorrectly said that the exclusion of latent onset disease showed that this bill is not about safety but about spin. The member has once again mischaracterised how the coronial jurisdiction works. These types of deaths are not deaths which any coroner is currently required to investigate. The way the coronial jurisdiction manages deaths from latent onset disease are well captured in the State Coroner's Guidelines.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, I have given you guidance. This is your final caution. I will warn you under the standing orders next time.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: These guidelines, which are publicly available—and I suggest the member for Gaven should have a good look at them—outline how the coronial system addresses lifestyle and industrial diseases such as mine dust lung disease.

When a coroner is notified of a death, the facts surrounding that death are considered on a case-by-case basis. The guidelines provide detailed guidance to coroners on the relevant considerations to determine whether a death is a reportable death. In some cases, the advice of a forensic pathologist or a clinical forensic medicine unit doctor is sought prior to a coroner concluding whether a death is considered reportable.

The member for Gaven has foreshadowed amendments to the scope of the bill to include deaths that occur in transit. The member for Mirani, in his insightful contribution to this debate, relevantly summed up why Labor's amendments are inadequate and would create significant problems for the Mining and Resources Coroner. I note he was talking from personal experience. The members opposite can laugh and roll their eyes, but I know the member is speaking from personal experience. He stated—

Anyone who has driven from Sarina to Moranbah, or Mount Morgan to Moranbah, knows the real risks on those roads—wandering livestock, bad weather, poor visibility and drivers not driving to the conditions. That is why we need to let the coroner decide when it is appropriate. Making it mandatory would create more problems than it solves.

Well said, member for Mirani. Further, the member for Gaven has asserted that these deaths were excluded as reportable deaths under the bill. This could not be further from the truth.

Deaths that occur in transit that are violent or otherwise unnatural are reportable deaths under the Coroners Act and must be investigated by a coroner. The bill does not seek to change this or exclude these deaths from being investigated. As noted by the Queensland Law Society in the submission to the committee, there is clear public interest in deaths such as these being investigated. The Queensland Law Society went on and advised the committee at the public hearing that there is public interest in bringing deaths by suicide within scope in appropriate circumstances, and it would come down to whether it was in the public interest. Maybe those opposite did not listen in the public hearings. We could not agree more with Queensland Law Society. This is why all reportable deaths, such as those caused by a car accident, will be investigated by a coroner and, if appropriate, an inquest will be conducted. The bill does not change this.

The amendments circulated by the member are simply unclear, legislatively ambiguous and fail to achieve, we assume, the member's policy intention. I say this all the time: I know it is hard in opposition, but you have to get up earlier and do your own work, and read the amendments.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I think she just said she didn't have to. I do not know who is doing it, then. Buddy, help her out.

Ms SCANLON: I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I will counsel the House here. There is a pattern of members rising, not obtaining the call of the Speaker, and registering a point of order and, in this case, the matter had been adjudicated by the members themselves. That is not acceptable. I caution all members that if you wish to rise on a point of order, you do so, you call the Speaker, and if you are called by the Speaker to register your point of order, you give it to the Speaker and the Speaker will adjudicate the matter. I do not want to see that again. Attorney-General, you have the call.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There was no—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Apologies.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already withdrawn.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made by the Attorney-General and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, will you withdraw?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I withdraw. To be clear, all reportable deaths must and will be investigated by a coroner. This includes all mining related reportable deaths and suicides, car accidents and any other death that meets the criteria of a reportable death under section 8 of the Coroners Act. In terms of an inquest, mining related reportable deaths must proceed to this stage.

The definition of a mining related reportable death in the bill provides a clear nexus between the injury that caused the death and the health and safety obligations of mining companies. Therefore, the Mining and Resources Coroner will be able to make findings and recommendations to address systemic

failings in the resources industry to ensure workers into the future come home to their loved ones and their families.

For all other reportable deaths, whether an inquest is held relies on the public interest test as determined by a coroner. The amendments posed by those opposite have limited regard to how the coronial jurisdiction operates and are ambiguous as to whether they even achieve their policy intention. As I previously mentioned, this comes from a Labor opposition that abolished this important jurisdiction. In proposing to amend the bill, the opposition have attempted to omit the exclusion on intentionally self-inflicted injury in the circulated amendments. However, these amendments do not achieve their policy intention.

Clause 5 of the bill inserts new section 11AAA(4) that defines a mining related injury received while a person is carrying out an activity that is related to the operation of a mine. Let me clarify for those who do not understand: the proposed amendment makes it clear that if a person dies from a self-inflicted injury while not carrying out an activity that is related to the operation of a mine, the death would not fall within the definition of a mining related reportable death and would not be subject to a mandatory inquest. They just got it wrong!

Mrs Stoker: Again.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection—again! The bill in its current form is a clear example of the Crisafulli government's ability to deliver on its commitments. At its core, this bill is about safety. It is about being responsive to the needs of the mining and resources sector. It is about preventing deaths on Queensland's mine and quarry sites in the future. Through this bill, we are ensuring that every mining related reportable death is treated with the seriousness it deserves.

In conclusion, I thank again all honourable members for their contributions during this very important debate. I thank them for recognising the importance of the Crisafulli government's reforms. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—

Ms SCANLON: I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Is leave granted? Leave is granted.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not hear a 'no'.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: A division has been called. Ring the bell for four minutes.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is my ruling.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 34:

ALP, 32—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

NOES, 49:

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

Pair: Perrett, Butcher.

Resolved in the negative.

Clause 4, as read, agreed to.

Clause 5—



Ms SCANLON (12.51 pm): I move amendments Nos 2 to 8 circulated in my name—

2 Clause 5 (Insertion of new s 11AAA)

Page 5, lines 18 and 19—

omit.

3 Clause 5 (Insertion of new s 11AAA)

Page 5, lines 20 and 21, from 'a' to 'injury'—

omit, insert—

or developing a mining related injury or illness

4 Clause 5 (Insertion of new s 11AAA)

Page 5, lines 26 and 27, from 'receives' to 'injury'—

omit, insert—

receives or acquires the mining related injury or illness

5 Clause 5 (Insertion of new s 11AAA)

Page 5, line 30, ' ; and'—

omit, insert—

6 Clause 5 (Insertion of new s 11AAA)

Page 6, lines 1 and 2—

omit.

7 Clause 5 (Insertion of new s 11AAA)

Page 6, lines 3 and 4, from 'a' to 'from'—

omit, insert—

a **mining related injury or illness** is an injury from, or an illness resulting from

8 Clause 5 (Insertion of new s 11AAA)

Page 6, after line 12—

insert—

(4A) Also, a person's death is a **mining related reportable death** if—

(a) the person dies at any time after receiving an injury, resulting from an accident, that—

(i) caused the death; or

(ii) contributed to the death and without which the person would not have died; and

(b) at the time of the accident, the person is travelling to or from a coal mine, mine or petroleum and gas site in the course of, or for a purpose incidental to, their employment at a coal mine, mine or petroleum and gas site.

Examples for paragraph (b)—

- a person who works at a mine travels in a motor vehicle from their place of residence or accommodation to the mine
- a person who works at a coal mine catches public transport from the coal mine to their place of residence or accommodation
- a person who works at a petroleum and gas site walks or rides a bicycle from the petroleum and gas site to the local shops to buy food during a lunch break

I want to start with the human consequence of this bill and the amendments that have been put forward. RSHQ has received reports of 685 mine workers who have been diagnosed with mine dust related diseases—and that number continues to climb. Under this bill, the death of any one of them would not be considered a mining related reportable death, and nor would the fatality of a mine worker travelling to and from work on a public road. Despite an estimated 190 suicides in the industry each year, these too would be excluded.

I heard the comments of the Attorney-General about the Coroners Act. There is a difference between an act and a bill—she did not seem to understand that, just like she did not realise she was not supposed to support the previous amendment put forward by the Labor opposition. I have heard those opposite make a number of comments. The member for Mundingburra said no longer will there be discretion. The member for Theodore said this removes the original discretion. It does not, though,

remove the discretion in cases of suicide, mine dust related disease and workers killed when travelling to and from work.

The point of this amendment is to say that those fatalities should be included as mine related fatalities that are reportable to the specialised mining coroner. If we are establishing a specialised coroner, why on earth would we exclude those fatalities? As was outlined by the department during the committee process, under the existing arrangements only two to four cases out of a case load of 200 to 300 would actually fall under the mining related reportable deaths category as put forward by those opposite. That means that 98 per cent of the mining coroner's work likely will not be mining related. It is about mining in name only.

Mrs Frecklington: Rubbish.

Ms SCANLON: It is not rubbish, Attorney-General. I ask the Attorney-General to properly consider the submissions from the Law Society, from unions and from industry who all called for changes.

We also heard the member for Mackay say not every death is the same. Apparently the LNP do not think suicide counts the same as a crushed limb. They apparently think that a miner who dies from lung disease after decades of working underground does not count the same as one killed in a fall. I thought the whole point of establishing a dedicated mining coroner was to look at some of the systemic issues, yet those opposite have excluded a range of fatalities that could actually be included to inform helpful—

Mr POWER: Mr Speaker—

(Time expired)

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: I made a ruling about calling before the clock had expired. I am sorry, member for Logan, but you were calling before the clock had expired.

Mr POWER: I understand, Mr Speaker. I was prompted by the fact that the Attorney-General rose to her feet.

Mr SPEAKER: I just made that ruling about jumping before the clock had expired. Attorney-General, you have the call.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: After listening to that contribution from the shadow minister, it is clear that the shadow minister simply does not get it. I want to point out a couple of things. In relation to the amendments that are before the House, I plead with those opposite to get some advice on their amendments so they can understand how they will interact in this case. They are simply unworkable. When you read them straight up and down, it is unclear what they are trying to achieve. I can only assume, for example—

A government member: Political trouble.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Exactly. I will talk to amendments Nos 3 and 4, relating to mine dust lung diseases. I can only assume the insertion of 'illness' is trying to capture latent onset diseases such as mine dust lung disease, which I talked about in my most recent speech. Again, as I read the amendments as drafted and as the good people of the Department of Justice read them as drafted—and I thank them for their hard work—they do not even achieve what the opposition intends. They do not go there.

Clause 5 of the bill inserts new section 11AAA, which defines a mining related reportable death. A mining related reportable death is where a person dies at any time after receiving the mining related injury that caused or contributed to the death and without which the person would not have died. This creates a causal link between the injury and the death. The opposition's amendments do not remove or amend that link. Let me make it simple for those opposite: this means that the Mining and Resources Coroner will still have to determine if a death is a mining related reportable death, as per the opposition's definition, which would require a mandatory inquest.

We already know that lifestyle and industrial diseases often involve a complex interplay between environmental and genetic factors and the link between the illness and death would be incredibly difficult for the Mining and Resources Coroner to determine. The government's bill is clear on this point, as it relies on the current coronial framework. Further, the State Coroner's guidelines provide clear guidance to the coroners on lifestyle and industrial diseases to ensure there is no inconsistency in whether coroners conduct investigations. Industrial diseases arising from exposure to hazards within a work environment are generally not considered to be reportable deaths.

I will turn to amendments Nos 5 and 6, which relate to suicides, and the attempt by the opposition to capture these. I understand the policy intent of these amendments: to have intentionally self-inflicted deaths included within the Mining and Resources Coroner's scope to mandate a coronial inquest for all suicides. Let's make it clear: as suicides are reportable deaths, an investigation into the death will occur and, if it is found to be in the public interest, an inquest will be conducted. However, noting the government's position on this issue, I can advise those opposite that their amendment does not achieve what they are trying to do. Clause 5 of the bill inserts new section 11AAA(4), which defines a mining related injury as an injury from—

- (a) coal mining operations under the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act* ...
- (b) operations under the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act* ...
- (c) data acquisition activities; or
- (d) petroleum tenure activities; or
- (e) water monitoring activities.

The definition of 'mining related injury' is intended to cover injuries that are received while a person is carrying out an activity that is related to the operation of a coalmine, mine, quarry or specified petroleum and gas site. For example, 'coalmining operations' is defined as—

... activities ... carried out at a coal mine that are associated with the following in relation to coal or coal seam gas—

- (a) exploration;
- (b) extracting;
- (c) the processing and treatment;
- (d) installing and maintaining equipment used for extraction, processing and treatment.

The nexus required between the injury and these types of activities is clear—for example, if I can assist the House, being struck in the head with a piece of drill rig machinery or a contractor killed during pipeline maintenance on a petroleum lease. The opposition's amendment did not capture all self-inflicted injuries, which would create confusion for the intent of the Mining and Resources Coroner. If a person dies from a self-inflicted injury while not carrying out an activity that is related to the operation of a mine, it would not fall within the definition of a mining related reportable death.

Mr SPEAKER: It being 1 pm, I ask the Attorney-General to resume her seat.

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Excuse me, I am speaking. Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and amendments to be moved by the minister, without further amendment or debate. First, we will vote on the amendments.

Division: Question put—That the member for Gaven's amendments Nos 2 to 8 be agreed to.

AYES, 35:

ALP, 32—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

NOES, 50:

LNP, 49—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, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pair: Perrett, Butcher.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendments (Ms Scanlon) negated.

Question put—That clauses 5 to 21 and schedule 1, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 21 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

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

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 1.06 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The best thing that can be said about the Crisafulli LNP government, based on its performance this week, is that it is a model of consistency—consistently loose with the truth and consistently willing to blame others for mistakes. It was revealed this week that the Crisafulli government relied on dodgy data to paint a misleading picture of its success on crime—but, predictably, it was not the government's fault.

The interesting thing about this dodgy data is that the errors in the counting process only began after the Crisafulli government's Adult Crime, Adult Time laws were in place. It is quite a remarkable coincidence, isn't it? It is quite a remarkable coincidence that the data sequence only applies to the statistical period that will help determine whether the Premier can live up to his vow of fewer crime victims. As 4,000 crime victims magically disappeared, we are told, 'There's nothing to see here.' It is just an incredible coincidence that the crime victim figures started getting rubbery when crunch time kicked in on the Premier's promise to reduce the number of victims. This does not even pass the Betoota pub test!

The other big bungle belongs to the child safety minister. The implementation of the Unify IT system in the department of child safety has been an unmitigated disaster. What has been even worse is the minister's tortured efforts to deflect blame for this almighty stuff-up. The minister has tied herself in knots trying to conjure up a credible timeline of who knew what and when. It was everyone else's fault that no-one told the minister the IT system was dodgy. The child safety minister hit Ctrl-F, desperately searching for plausible deniability. The trouble is that the minister's version of events—the minister's version of the timeline, the minister's version of who knew what and when—simply is not plausible.

Then there is the health minister. He went on holidays in the midst of multiple health department crises. Then he refused to meet the family of Christine White, who died after not receiving the life-saving medical treatment she should have been provided at Ipswich Hospital.

Then we had the extraordinary scenes in the parliament today. It was extraordinary that today Premier Crisafulli failed to condemn LNP powerbroker Michael Trout for punching a woman in the face. I will correct that: Mr Trout punched an innocent woman in the face. Mr Trout pleaded guilty to punching a woman in the face. The Premier had three minutes to condemn Mr Trout but he did not. It was weak. It shows that this Premier will do anything for money, because Michael Trout donated \$17,500 to the LNP. I thought it was disgraceful the Premier refused to condemn Mr Trout. The court heard, 'Michael Trout commenced the public fight by punching a woman in the face.' How can a premier of Queensland choose not to condemn that appalling behaviour?

Container Refund Scheme

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.03 pm): Today's bombshell report into the container refund scheme speaks to the disgraceful oversight of the program by the former Labor government. The referrals made to the CCC to probe allegations of bullying, intimidation and corruption are damning. Queenslanders love recycling. They believe in doing the right thing—returning cans and bottles because they believe the system works. Today's report has let the sun shine in on another Labor failure. Will the opposition come in here this afternoon and stand by their own statement of reservation that they are 'proud to have brought in a container recycling scheme in Queensland'—a statement that has been made despite the findings of this report?

I have so many more questions and only the Labor Party can front up and answer them. Why, year after year, did they accept the scheme not meeting its single most important target? Why did they allow Coex executives to receive bonuses despite failing to meet the recovery rate? Why did Labor commission a review into the governance of the scheme last year? What did they know and why did they not tell Queenslanders? Why did they appoint a Labor Party candidate as the independent chair? Why did they ignore their own members' recommendations from the previous committee to ensure the waste industry was adequately represented on the board? Did they question the board's decision to begin paying themselves in 2024? Employees were paid bonuses just for showing up to work. At page 167 the report notes—

That COEX has seen fit to pay bonuses to employees simply for working there is quite extraordinary ...

It goes on—

There have been rapid increases in employee expenses which has not contributed to a substantive increase in the return rate, and in fact has accompanied a slight decrease in the recovery rate this financial year.

The CEO of Coex gave evidence to the inquiry against the board about their remuneration rates—an incredible development which shows the dysfunction of the leadership in charge of the scheme. But where were the Labor ministers in all of this? They need to answer Queenslanders' questions as to why they turned a blind eye.

Labor, I will say again, commissioned a governance review after years of not doing any governance checks. What happened? It took our government to take action and shine a light on this mess. This shambolic operation did not happen overnight; it happened under those opposite's watch. They signed off on their strategic plans year after year. They appointed a Labor mate as chair for years. The opposition leader has questions to answer. The Crisafulli government is committed to answering those questions and restoring faith in the scheme.

Community Safety

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.06 pm): Community safety is not a slogan; it is personal. My dad was a police officer and I grew up knowing what it means when someone's safety is stolen from them—that victims are not just statistics. They are real people whose lives have been turned upside down. Under those opposite, what is coming down is credibility of data under their watch. First, their new victim data did not even include breaches of domestic violence. Then, and only then, after Labor discovered 4,241 victims between January and August were completely missing from the government's official crime data, did the minister come in here and say, 'Oh, actually, yes, it turns out you are right.' When we asked the police minister to disclose the WhatsApp messages about these missing victim numbers—

Ms Grace: 'Nah, nothing to see here.'

Ms SCANLON: He said, 'Oh, yeah, nothing to see here. No, I'm not going to disclose that information.' He can spend time, though, to spin stories but not actually tell the truth to Queenslanders and provide that information for everyone to see. A case in point is the police minister's own chief of staff, who somehow knew specific details about an attempted murder in Upper Coomera, an attack on a woman in her sixties, to prepare for a media conference but apparently had no idea thousands of victims were disappearing under their watch. I table of copy of that RTI.

Tabled paper: Extract from right to information document, dated 23 January 2025, titled 'Police Minister Media'.

Of course, we know how those opposite really feel about crimes committed against women. When an LNP donor and former MP punched a woman—an innocent woman—in the face, did the Premier condemn him? No. He called it a 'misdemeanour'. I want to quote what the magistrate said about this particular incident. They said—

"It's an absolute nightmare for the victims—they were innocent, going about their lives, confronted by you—motivated by beliefs that were entirely incorrect," ...

Unfortunately, we have a leader who claims that he stands up for victims, but apparently if you donate \$17,000 to the LNP you do not matter. All we get under the LNP is victims deleted from data. They refuse to release the messages that might show who is actually responsible and what the minister actually knew. Every one of those 4,241 victims mattered. Every woman whose safety is ignored matters, even if you do not donate \$17,000 to the Liberal National Party, and every Queenslanders deserves a government that actually counts victims, not one that makes them disappear. Under Labor we do not hide victims; we stand with them. It is about time the police minister disclosed the WhatsApp

messages and what is on the app to be transparent to Queenslanders about what he and his staff knew about this data not being transparent.

Container Refund Scheme

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.09 pm): The decade of decline under Labor saw a conga line of integrity failures, and the report tabled by the member for Southport today highlights yet another entry into that shameful list. The four former ministers now serving as shadow ministers and the Leader of the Opposition himself have serious questions to answer.

Those opposite were meant to deliver a fair, transparent and community-minded recycling scheme. Instead, they delivered a sham. The report outlines how they sidestepped committee recommendations and chose to appoint their mates to the board rather than representatives of the waste and recycling industry. Page 40 of the report states—

The appointment process for the PRO was not an open tender.

After receiving their application the member for Murrumba rammed through—in only six days—the appointment of Coex as the scheme operator, one of his last acts as minister for the environment. The committee was told—

There was no tender. Nothing went to market and no-one was invited to apply ...

To add to it all, the first and so-called independent chair, Mark O'Brien, had no recycling experience—his experience was as a recycled Labor candidate. He ran for Labor in Warrego three times, including whilst he was on the Coex board. Worse still, Labor's failure to implement basic governance and legislative guardrails resulted in Coex forking out nearly \$96 million to a for-profit company that still had representation on the Coex board.

The member for Southport makes an important point in his foreword. He says—

This scheme has enormous potential—but it must be managed with integrity, fairness, and proper oversight to deliver the outcomes Queenslanders were promised and deserve.

As we saw time and time again during the decade of decline, integrity is simply missing from the Labor Party. Thankfully, this parliamentary inquiry has yet again shone a light on the culture of those opposite from the Labor Party: jobs for mates and politics over delivering for Queenslanders.

Meanwhile, the Clayton Utz review makes one thing very clear: Coex's governance system is broken. As the member for Glass House pointed out, the list goes on and on: the member for Murrumba introduced the scheme; the member for Algeester established it; and the member for Gaven and the member for Nudgee were each complicit in these failures. All four of them have questions to answer.

Drugs, Testing

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (2.12 pm): I rise to speak about the lives of our young people lost to drug overdose in this state and how as a parliament we have a responsibility to do all we can to save those young lives. I want to start by saying that I wish people did not take drugs, but with more people dying from drug overdoses than on our roads that is obviously not dealing with reality. In this House we need to deal with the real-life experiences of the families we are elected to serve. We may like to think that young drug users are other people's children, but there are very few families that drug use has not touched. If that is your family then you are very lucky.

As a doctor I worked for the state government's alcohol and drug services, working with heroin users in harm reduction measures. I sat with families of young people who attended the best private schools in this state with parents from the highest echelons of professional life, all driven by the desire to save their children—in some cases, all of their children—from the devastating effects of drug use. Sometimes on a really basic level what is required is to keep young people alive long enough to get them through a period of experimentation so they can go on and lead the rich, productive lives we all want for them.

That is why harm reduction measures like drug testing are so important, particularly at this time with two deaths in the past few weeks from a new, potent opioid and schoolies coming up. Drug testing services save lives, with many young people who attend reducing their drug use or not taking the drug at all as well as receiving help with addiction and mental health problems. The president of AMA Queensland has said—

We know from pill testing, from worldwide research and evidence, it does save lives.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners supports drug testing services as a sensible harm reduction measure, stating it is not about condoning illegal drug use but about helping people who are taking illicit drugs make an informed decision. The Queensland branch of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists has called for the reversal of Queensland's legislation banning drug-checking services.

Strong governments have the courage to admit when they have got something wrong. I ask the government not to turn their back on Queensland families who need our help but to have the strength to show leadership. Listen to the experts—listen to the doctors, to the GPs, to the psychiatrists—and reinstate drug testing services in this state for the sake of our young Queenslanders and their families.

Container Refund Scheme

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.15 pm): It really is an honour to be the Minister for Small and Family Business amongst other portfolios. Only yesterday I was on the phone with a local baker in my electorate of Chatsworth. He is going through some hard times at the moment and I was happy to have a good chat with him. While speaking with him, it highlighted to me that he got to that bakery at around 20 past three and I think he left at around 20 to 10 that night. That is a typical day in the life of a small and family business person.

When I heard the report that was tabled in the House earlier today in relation to the container refund scheme I thought, 'Surely there has to be more to it than that.' I admit that I have only had a quick flip through it, but I have done a key word search on something dear to my heart: small and family business. In that context I would like to make a few observations.

When the container refund scheme was launched, small and family businesses were very much meant to be at its heart. As many of my colleagues in this House would know, container return points are owned and operated by around 80 different operators. Many of them—of course not all—are small and family business operators, so that was a promising start. It was meant to be something decent for small and family business; however, it has almost turned into a nightmare.

The report's findings are not only disappointing—let's be frank—they are absolutely disgraceful. I am going to go through a couple of quotes from this report. The member for Woodridge should be ashamed to even be remotely associated with it. Gayle Sloan, the chief executive officer of the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia, told the committee—

I have many small businesses that have lost a lot of money through investing in Queensland due to changes in co-ex. We have contract terms that are quite harsh and unreasonable. It is very difficult when you are dealing with one monopoly operator to actually have a fair contract conversation.

Ms Sloan went on to say—

It is not easy for small operators ... it was always set up to try to keep operators small and divided.

That is a damning line. I stand to be corrected, but I believe I heard from the member for Southport that there may be up to 10 referrals to the CCC from this report. That in itself is a damning statistic. The reality is that this container refund scheme was meant to be something that small and family businesses could derive something from, but with everything those opposite tend to get involved in—as I have said in this place before—it is like mixing oil and water. The Australian Labor Party does not get small and family business.

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

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.18 pm): I rise to speak about the horrifying mess that is the rollout of Child Safety's Unify IT system under this Crisafulli LNP government. Cash before kids—that is what this government has prioritised. That was the admission made by the minister's very own director-general. What it tells us is that, apparently, the Crisafulli government can put a price on the value of protecting 16,000 at-risk children in this state. It seems they thought that price was too high.

While they were scanning the spreadsheets to find savings at the cost of safeguarding children, there is something else that does not quite add up. The child safety minister has consistently said that her director-general was not aware of these issues—she said it again yesterday—and that that is how she was so unaware of such a critical failing in her own department under her leadership, but that is simply not true. The Together union told the director-general in a meeting in May, and two weeks ago the minister's director-general reportedly said—

... at the point that we went ... live, there were some concerns related to data and functionality—

Despite the protestations, the question remains: exactly when did the minister really learn about these issues? What really worries us to our core is that we still do not know the depth of the impact of the LNP's failure. How many critical incident reports have been missed? How many at-risk children are facing intake delays? What absolutely agonises me and members on this side of the House is: has something horrible happened to a child? Is that why the minister has gone public all of a sudden? We got no answers yesterday when we asked her whether any children had been hurt.

Queenslanders will remember that this Premier promised his ministers would be held to account, but clearly they are not. After her director-general fronted the media to offer a mea culpa and fall on the proverbial sword, the minister went off to enjoy her holidays. This week the minister had to front up to parliament and, lo and behold, it is another public servant's turn to face the heat—this time the CIO. The minister can try to insulate herself from any blame by accusing public servants, sacking public servants or telling us it was the public servant's fault, but she let it slip yesterday. When asked why the Crisafulli government put dollars before the lives of the state's most vulnerable children, the minister told us that she actually endorsed the decision the director-general made to go live, despite concerns of functionality, because of that pesky worry about budget constraints within the LNP. Queenslanders deserve better. There needs to be an independent investigation into this because saving dollars is never more important than the safety of 16,000 vulnerable children.

Container Refund Scheme

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.21 pm): Our Queensland grassroots sporting clubs are constantly struggling to fundraise to make sure they have better services and facilities for our kids. Many go to the trouble of collecting containers and rallying their local communities behind them to bring down their bottles and cans to their local club. Stadiums Queensland have collection points located across eight of their venues. They recently confirmed that game 1 of the State of Origin series marked a milestone for Queensland, with the event marking four million containers recycled through Containers for Change. That is why it is so disappointing to hear the report from the member for Southport this morning about the review of the container refund scheme and some of the issues that have been raised.

Queensland's container refund scheme was meant to do more than recycle bottles; it was meant to reinvest in Queensland communities. It was intended to provide opportunities for charities, community groups and individuals to raise funds through container collection.

Ms Pease: You supported it.

Mr MANDER: I will come back to that comment. Those funds were to support their players and maintain facilities. Instead, Coex has failed to meet its targets and, as a result, sat on funds that could have otherwise flowed back into the community. Due to refund redemptions remaining well below the legislated 85 per cent target, every container that is not returned becomes additional money for Coex, not for Queenslanders. The member for Southport, through his committee report, uncovered that the scheme now turns over half a billion dollars a year. Alarming, less than two per cent went back to charities, schools, sporting clubs and community organisations. I will say that again: less than two per cent.

As the *Australian* reported, Coex spent more than \$500,000 on an advertising campaign urging schoolchildren to return poppers for recycling, despite the state being unable to recycle them. This was a campaign built on false pretence, funded by money that could have gone back to schools and clubs. This was set up as a not-for-profit; instead, it became a cover-up, established by the opposition leader for alleged corruption. The opportunity lost is one thing. However, another is the mismanagement and conflicts of interest that have been publicly exposed.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take the interjection from the member for Woodridge and the interjection from the member for Mansfield. We did support the scheme. We support recycling. What we do not support is maladministration.

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that comment made by the member for Everton. I was sitting here in my seat and I was silent. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Was the interjection from the member for Lytton?

Ms Pease: No.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Minister, you have the call and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. Members of the opposition were screaming out, 'You supported it.' Yes, we supported it. We support recycling, but who can support this organisation after what has been revealed today by the member for Southport? This is alleged corruption—alleged snouts in the trough, doubling of their salaries, doubling of their director fees. No matter where they go and how long they have been out of government, the stink stays with them.

Liberal National Party

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.25 pm): A \$17,500 donation has hit the LNP coffers. The generous individual was one of their own. Weeks after making the donation, the former LNP MP for Barron River, Michael Trout, was charged with two counts of assault occasioning bodily harm and one count of unlawful stalking. Meanwhile, the current member for Barron River—the beneficiary of the donation—is laughing all the way to the bank.

Today in this place, the Premier refused to condemn LNP member Michael Trout—a man found guilty of punching an innocent woman in the face. If you are wondering what the price tag for his silence is, wonder no more. It is \$17,500. So much for standing up for victims of crime. The thin, disingenuous veil has been lifted this week. We knew the LNP were cooking the books on victim numbers, but the extent of the doctoring and secret manipulation has been laid bare in this place.

Almost one year into their term, it is plainly obvious that the LNP are more interested in themselves—their self-preservation, their pursuit of power and their own egos. It does not just extend to every single LNP member elected to the government benches; they are setting their mates up in cushy roles too. LNP members and donors are being elevated to government boards and Public Service positions. The Minister for Finance told the House that the jobs-for-mates era was over. Misleading much? Lofty heights were reached by a laundry list of mates, some even political candidates and lobbyists—hacks like Andrew Cripps, Peter Matic, Julian Simmonds, Michael Hart, Lachlan Millar, Jeff Seeney, Christopher Lehmann, Vivian Grayson and Jane McNamara. The list goes on. ABC News reported—

At least 34 taxpayer-funded executive jobs and board positions have been handed to LNP donors, former politicians, candidates, colleagues and party operatives since the party came to power ...

I table that article.

Tabled paper: Media article, dated 15 October 2025, titled 'LNP government criticised over new "jobs for mates" appointment of party powerbroker'.

Given the rates of holidays that those opposite are taking, I would estimate that to be a job for a mate every week they are actually at work. It is clear that the LNP is giving kickbacks to their mates in return to do their bidding. There is no integrity in this operating model. They are taking money off mates who clock innocent women in the face and showering their now indentured taxpayer employed mates with the cushiest of jobs. Make no mistake: you cannot be on the take without being expected to give under the LNP's model of operation. The losers in the LNP's self-serving operating model are Queenslanders. The LNP promised they would govern with integrity and it is clear they only want to govern for themselves. They are taking us back to the bad old days.

Container Refund Scheme

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.28 pm): The Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's report tabled by the member for Southport into Coex contains some of the same concerns and alarm bells that Queenslanders and industry figures had been raising for many years with me in my time as shadow environment minister, but the report goes far beyond that. Anytime issues were raised about Coex over the last four years, they were ignored and ridiculed by the member for Gaven, the member for Nudgee, the member for Algester and the member for Murrumba. Those members should have to answer for this disaster of a scheme that they have overseen as environment ministers of this state.

From day one this container deposit scheme, which should have been nation leading thanks to its bipartisan support from the LNP, was hastily put together with no open tender process in a secretive plan behind closed doors, stitched up by the member for Murrumba. As Gayle Sloan, the CEO of the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia said—

... we were not consulted.

...

There was no tender. Nothing went to market and no-one else was invited to apply ...

The report also outlined financial mismanagement and mismanagement of the scheme itself; behaviour and allegations so concerning that 10 separate matters have been referred to the CCC not just about current Coex players, but former ones as well; and a board that was run as a closed shop filled with union mates and chaired by a former failed Labor candidate who even ran as a state candidate whilst chair of Coex. We have seen false promises made by those opposite about a new income stream for charities and not-for-profits.

The member for Gaven, happy as always to get in front of the cameras and promote an expensive ad campaign, was there encouraging kids to recycle poppers, promising millions of dollars for schools. However, the member for Gaven did not reveal to Queenslanders that none of those poppers were being recycled in Queensland; they were all being exported to India. The member had absolutely no idea whether those containers were recycled or not.

It has been revealed Coex had huge surpluses at the same time it was improving recycling rates. They were sitting on tens of millions of dollars and refusing to invest and expand the state's recycling capacity. Today we have uncovered far more. Page 147 of the report notes that the former government was aware of these issues as far back as April 2019 but they did nothing. This report reinforces that it is the same old Labor Party. They think the job is done when the press conference ends and when things go wrong they will bury, hide and refuse to take responsibility. The Labor Party pretend they care about the environment, but it is all talk. The LNP is getting on with the job of protecting more of our state and better managing our natural environment.

Bremer River Bridge

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.31 pm): Today I once again rise to speak about road infrastructure in my electorate in Ipswich West and no, Premier, it is not 'Brisbane west'. I want to call out the lack of transparency surrounding the Bremer River bridge project on the Warrego Highway, a project that has gone from an \$85 million commitment to strengthen and replace a structurally compromised bridge deck to what now appears to be a patch-up job with no clear explanation.

Let me remind the House: in 2024 the previous state Labor government secured \$42.5 million for the strengthening of the westbound Bremer River bridge with a matching \$42.5 million from the federal Labor government. This was not a dollar figure plucked out of the air. It certainly was not information obtained from travelling down the river on a jet ski like the previous member. It was backed by a full departmental business case identifying structural deficiencies and fatigue cracks in the steel bridge that demanded a complete deck replacement. However, here we are one year later and suddenly, without public notice or explanation, that plan has been dramatically altered.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads under this government now claims a deck replacement is no longer necessary. Instead, they plan to weld over the fatigue cracks and call it a day. I say to the minister that this is not how you maintain confidence in public infrastructure; this is how you erode it. The minister and his department owe our community answers because right now it looks like this government has quietly walked away from an \$85 million promise and is hoping no-one notices. Ipswich West has noticed. I want to call out the lack of information the community has received on this important issue.

I think the Minister for Transport and Main Roads needs to take himself and his department for an inspection and a safety check. I am not sure if it is from applying the brakes for too long or whether it is a steering problem, but it is clear that he would fail a roadworthy certificate. Whether it is about the Bremer River bridge, Mount Crosby interchange, Mount Crosby overpass repairs, Schultzs Road intersection—and I have lobbied the minister and the department regarding a speed limit reduction at this dangerous intersection—the Amberley interchange or the second river crossing, there is no acceleration and the check-system light is constantly on. The minister has been driving this department for nearly a year now and I am concerned that he does not know what is under the hood and his GPS is faulty. We have noticed that he made it into Springfield to discuss our infrastructure. He missed our electorate by that much. He suggested that he would progressively chip away at our infrastructure needs. We have read in the paper how the previous member for Ipswich West has come out swinging at the minister's department and its decisions, and I table a copy of that article. We cannot afford to see that money quietly redirected to another postcode.

Tabled paper: Article from Ipswich West Moreton, dated 9 October, titled 'Zanow takes aim at TMR'.

Maryborough CBD, Antisocial Behaviour



Mr BAROUNIS (Maryborough—LNP) (2.34 pm): I rise today to inform the House of the hard work and dedication that the Crisafulli LNP government has committed to addressing and removing antisocial behaviour that has plagued the Maryborough CBD for far too long. In November last year I organised a community meeting at the Maryborough Town Hall. Over 400 angry and concerned residents and business owners filled that hall. They came seeking answers and wanting to know what I was going to do to fix the situation. This was a problem I had inherited from the previous Labor member and government, a problem that I was determined to address. I made it clear that I will campaign directly to the Premier to bring our community back together and restore safety and confidence in our CBD.

The Premier listened and we acted. In July this year Premier Crisafulli attended the first roundtable meeting in Maryborough. That meeting brought together representatives from a range of government departments, support services and small business owners. The Premier and his team worked with me to develop a strong, compassionate and practical plan, one that involved multiple government agencies and community support services. Multiple agencies involved in this response plan include: the Department of Housing and Public Works, Queensland Health, Queensland Police Service, the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Corrective Services, Fraser Coast Regional Council and NGO service providers within the Maryborough community. This plan was not about pushing the problem elsewhere. It was about addressing the root causes, supporting those who need it and restoring safety and confidence for everyone in our CBD.

This week the first stage of the plan has been implemented. While much of this work may not yet be visible to the broader community, there is a significant coordinated effort behind the scenes to ensure that individuals exhibiting antisocial behaviour are supported and their needs are properly addressed, while at the same time making it clear that unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated. I would like to thank the Premier, David Crisafulli, for listening to my community, backing me as the member and following through on his commitment to make Maryborough safer. Also I say thanks to the police minister, the Hon. Dan Purdie, and the local police force. This is what listening leadership looks like and what a strong community partnership can achieve.

Energy Roadmap



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (2.37 pm): I believe the Chief Executive of Nexa Advisory, Stephanie Bashir, put it best when she described this LNP government's so-called Energy Roadmap as nothing more than a cul-de-sac. That is exactly what this is: a dead end for Queenslanders. This is not a road map to prosperity or lower power prices, nor sustainable and reliable power sources. This is a detour to higher cost of living, higher emissions—

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is absolutely breaching the rule of anticipation on a bill that has been introduced.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Thank you, member. I appreciate that. The member has a point. There is a bill that has been introduced, so if you could refrain from breaching standing orders that would be appreciated.

Ms LINARD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am referring to the road map, not the bill that has been introduced.

Mr McCallum: The policy, not the bill.

Ms LINARD: It is a policy, not a bill.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, there is no need for that outburst. One moment, I will seek some advice.

Mr McCallum interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba, you are warned under the standing orders. Member, I appreciate what you are saying, that you are talking about the road map, but please make sure you do not anticipate debate.

Ms LINARD: The LNP's so-called Energy Roadmap could be better described as a plan not to have a plan to cut emissions and actually transition our energy system. Instead, we have a policy that extends coal-fired power well into the 2040s without firm closure dates, all while stagnating investment in renewables. That is not progress; that is regression.

However, what I would really like to see is the track-changes version of the policy plan, because we have all read that what was released was not what was originally drafted. The *Courier-Mail* reported that the Energy Roadmap would include firm closure dates for Queensland's coal generators. By midmorning, the Premier and energy minister's spinners were backgrounding journalists that the *Courier-Mail* was wrong, but we do not believe he did get it wrong. The journalist and the Treasurer had it right.

The writing is on the wall. There are those economies that are investing in new technologies and clean energy to futureproof their economies and there are those that will be left behind, facing increasing instability from continued reliance on aging, increasingly costly fossil fuels—a fact, I surmise, the Treasurer is acutely aware of. While those opposite say our emissions reduction targets are not next on the chopping block alongside renewable targets, the LNP government has already cut emissions targets by stealth, because you cannot achieve net zero by 2050 without a credible path to get there.

Energy experts, climate scientists and industry stakeholders have all sounded the alarm. The Smart Energy Council has labelled this plan a missed opportunity for Queensland, while the Queensland Conservation Council described the road map as a 'pathway to fossil fuel fantasy land'. It sends the wrong message to investors willing to commit billions to a clean, low-emissions future and who are ready to build renewable projects, create jobs and strengthen our regions. It sends the wrong message to regional economies that depend on the reef, like Cairns and Far North Queensland, for tens of thousands of tourism jobs. It sends the wrong message to every Queenslander who believes that climate action and economic growth can and do go hand in hand. Queenslanders deserve better. They deserve a plan that lowers household bills, not raises them; a plan that protects the reef, not puts it at risk; a plan that backs renewables and a cleaner future; and a plan that keeps Queensland moving forward, not stuck in a cul-de-sac of ideology.

Gregory Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (2.41 pm): In my first contribution to this place I spoke about the desperate need for road funding in Gregory. The situation across my electorate after the last decade of decline was depressing holistically, but roads were the real beacon of Labor's failure in Gregory, either building new or maintaining old. What a difference we have seen in the last few months, with record levels of capital investment right across the electorate. Queensland beef corridor early works are about to begin on the Alpha-Clermont, Alpha-Tambo and Fitzroy Developmental roads. What a wonderful feat this will be to partner with all three levels of government to deliver ag's biggest contributor—the beef industry—21st century roads to aid in our pursuit of \$30 billion by 2030. These roads are part of a broader program of works such as the May Downs Road in the electorate of Mirani and the Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road in the electorate of Burdekin that will see progressive sealing works undertaken.

The Springton-Wyntoon, Winton-Richmond and Diamantina Developmental roads will all be sealed through Country Roads Connect. What a wonderful program, first promised and now being delivered solely by the Crisafulli government. I thank the members for Burdekin and Buderim for their tireless advocacy and efforts in building this program and now delivering it—ministers in a government that truly understands regional Queensland.

Perhaps the delivery for Gregory that I am most impressed and pleased to see delivered is the final section sealing of the Eyre Developmental Road, locally known as the Cuttaburra. Last week I travelled with the transport minister to Western Queensland to meet with local councils that have all advocated for a long time for these road improvements, but they are not a 'nice to have'; they improve livability and accessibility. You could say they are a necessity.

Birdsville is a truly outback town—as remote as Western Queensland gets. I note its neighbour Betoota mentioned earlier in this parcel of parliament. It is an iconic tourism destination, an organic beef central, country racing mecca and, up until now, unreachable during wet weather due to an unsealed section of road. Imagine living in an iconic tourism destination that supports the most valuable elements of our grass-fed beef production yet having no access when it rains, let alone floods. Thanks to the terrific work from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the Minister for Disaster Recovery, who have partnered with the federal government to deliver true betterment, this will now be a reality.

The job is just getting started in terms of improving road conditions. On top of delivering new and vital infrastructure upgrades will be the critical maintenance works that Labor let languish for a decade, but I am now proud of the giant strides we have made as a government to deliver for Queenslanders,

especially in Gregory in the roads space. We promised to deliver for all Queenslanders and to respect the roles they play, and 21st century roads are central to that. I will ensure they keep rolling out in Gregory.

Lindum Railway Station, Upgrades

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.44 pm): On a quiet Tuesday morning last month, the Lindum station upgrade was quietly officially opened. There was no fanfare and there was no acknowledgement or thanks to the community that drove this accessibility upgrade of the Lindum precinct area. To the residents, students and traders who all called for these works and whom I am incredibly proud to have fought for on behalf of the bayside community, there was not a peep. We locals know that the Lindum precinct was unsafe, with a history of traffic congestion, traffic incidents and inaccessibility, and I made it my mission from when I was elected in 2015 to ensure vital upgrades were delivered.

The Lindum precinct study acknowledged that all levels of government had a responsibility to undertake safety works in the precinct. I ask all members to remember that statement—all levels of government. The Queensland government undertook the works on the asset that was owned by QR to improve safety and accessibility at the station. The station features a new footbridge with lifts, ramps and stairs, upgraded and expanded car parking, secure bicycle storage, accessible toilets and improved lighting, CCTV, signage, signalisation and lengthened boom gates. These improvements will all make travel safer, easier and more inclusive for every passenger who uses Lindum.

Despite this achievement, I was so deeply disappointed, as was my community, with the way the opening was handled. The event was marked by only a silent whisper as the curtain was pulled back across the plaque by QR. There was no invitation to the community or indeed to the federal member or the Brisbane City Council representatives. There was nothing to the local schools. Baysiders fought alongside me for this upgrade and we all deserved the opportunity to be included in the opening and to celebrate it. I wonder who made the decision not to involve the very community that worked so hard to bring about change. Was it petty politics, or perhaps it merely reflects a reluctance to acknowledge that this project was the result of years of advocacy under the previous government and was delivered by the Labor government? Members on this side of the chamber were instrumental in making this project happen. On behalf of my community, I thank the opposition leader and the former treasurer and minister for transport for listening to my community.

Work at Lindum is not finished. Remember what I said about all levels of government? Unfortunately—surprise, surprise—Brisbane City Council is yet to progress any of the works at the precinct. That was its part of the deal and I have written to the Lord Mayor with regard to that.

Energy Roadmap; Southern Downs, Water Security

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.47 pm): I can confidently assure the House that, in response to what the member for Nudgee said earlier, the good folk and true of Southern Downs are delighted with the government's Energy Roadmap—

Mr Smith: What about Emu Swamp Dam?

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from the member for Bundaberg; I am going to get to that—but she should come to a real regional area and talk to the coalminers and the coal-fired power station workers who keep Millmerran alive and who are delighted with our Energy Roadmap, but I digress.

I would now like to speak about one of my favourite topics, which has been foreshadowed by the member for Bundaberg, and that is water security in my electorate of Southern Downs. I specifically want to speak about the regional water assessment for the Southern Downs and Darling Downs, which was initiated by the former Labor government, which has recommended that work be done on some priorities which I think will deliver less water at higher prices to my electorate. I am talking particularly about the comparisons that it contains between Emu Swamp Dam, or the Granite Belt Irrigation Project, and the Warwick to Stanthorpe pipeline. Members will be aware that Warwick supplied water to Stanthorpe by truck for almost 18 months when it ran out of water. That was an economic and social tragedy in my electorate which had far-reaching implications for the people I am elected to represent.

When I see that the Regional Water Assessment program has made a recommendation that that pipeline be further considered and I see the prices—you will have to forgive me, my glasses have gone out of focus, I must be getting older. They say \$600 million would be the cost of the Granite Belt irrigation project, with a cost benefit ratio of 0.2; yet they say that it would be \$90 million for a pipeline from Warwick uphill across granite country to Stanthorpe—not to mention the operational costs of such a

feat—would only be \$90.6 million with a cost benefit ratio, even with that distorted figure, of 0.05. That is one quarter of the benefit ratio that applies to Emu Swamp Dam and the Granite Belt irrigation project. It is quite clear that with these grossly distorted figures you could multiply the cost of the pipeline by three, come up with \$270 million for that and divide by three the cost of the Granite Belt Irrigation Project and have that for about \$200 million. We want new water—not water pumped from someone else's scarce supply—that is not just for the town that ran out of water but also for the farmers who ran out of water, those who grow our food, those who work very hard to employ people in my electorate and those who provide the social and economic fabric of our community. I will be taking this up with the minister. I note she is in the chamber. She has been very courteous and receptive to my discussions with her about water security in my electorate. I will certainly be advocating for Emu Swamp Dam and not for a pipeline from Warwick to Stanthorpe.

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.50 pm): Over the last 12 months, one of the many things we have unfortunately come to know about the LNP—one of the scariest things, in fact—is that they are just plain dodgy about data. Dodgy, doctored data—that is what we see from the LNP. Reliable data is really important. As a government it helps you keep track of how things are going so you can change tack if you need to, and it is a way of showing your constituents that you are doing what you promised to do. The Premier on prime-time TV in the election campaign staked his leadership on victim numbers. He promised that if victim numbers did not go down year upon year, he would resign. He made victim data the one thing he would be measured by, so he was pretty desperate for the data to look good.

When you make that sort of promise, you have to be really shmick about your data so when they released victim data last week that was way down well, of course, everyone would be pleased about that, wouldn't they? We all want victim numbers down, we all want offender numbers down. We know Queenslanders want victim numbers to come down. Crime was one of their No. 1 concerns going into the election. Victims do not want to be victims and you would hope the Premier would be thinking, 'This is good for victims,' but you can guarantee that he would be thinking, 'Yes, I am made here.' The problem was: he wanted that so much that he was happy to release dodgy data. It took the Labor opposition about 10 minutes to work out something was wrong. There were 4,241 victims from January to August 2025 who disappeared overnight. It took the police minister's statement this week for the LNP to admit we were right because they knew that Queenslanders were onto them. Meanwhile, Queenslanders still have not heard a peep from the Premier himself about why thousands of victims of crime in September were not considered to be victims of crime in October—victims who are real people. The Premier is so desperate to make his figures look good before his 12 months are up, that he did not even count them.

This debacle is not the first. It took him 10 months from his leadership vow to tell us how he was going to mention a decrease in victim numbers. One month he gives us court data; and other months he gives us police data. One month he gives us data that has gone up but he does not mention the data that has gone up severely. One minute they are talking about regions where crime has gone down but they do not mention where it has gone up. These are real victims. We need the Premier to tell the truth. We need Queenslanders to have faith in the Premier.

Thuringowa Electorate

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (2.54 pm): I rise today to speak of the great pride I have in representing the community of Thuringowa. Reflecting on the past 12 months, I have had the privilege of embracing this community, listening to its heartbeat and serving as its voice in this chamber. From the bottom of my heart, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone in Thuringowa who has welcomed me into their lives. To every resident who has answered my knock at your door, thank you. Those moments of connection from heartfelt hugs to sharing a cuppa or patting your dog, you have given me a deeper understanding of what makes Thuringowa so special. I could write a book about the conversations that we have shared. Even when we do not see eye to eye, your willingness to engage in honest real dialogue makes my day and strengthens our community.

To the school principals, teachers, staff and students: I am so grateful for the warmth with which you have welcomed me into your schools. Whether it is flipping pancakes, being at fetes, reading stories in the library or celebrating your achievements, being part of your community has been an absolute joy.

To every small business owner: thank you for our constructive conversations about supporting each other and wanting to thrive and grow in the Thuringowa community. From roadside chats to

bustling moments at the Willows markets and shopping centres, you make my role a rewarding journey. Your stories, ideas and passion inspire me every day.

Together we have achieved some remarkable outcomes over the past year and I am proud to celebrate those successes with you but let me be very clear: this is just the beginning. There is still so much work to do and I am committed to continuing this journey with you.

I also want to address concerns about the Labor crime crisis we inherited. While we have seen some positive results locally—and I commend the tireless efforts of our local Queensland Police Service—there is still a long road ahead. Your safety is my top priority and I will not rest until every resident of Thuringowa starts to feel more secure and safe in their home and community. To the people of Thuringowa: thank you for placing your trust in me last October. You voted for a fresh start and I pledge to keep listening, learning and delivering for you. Together, we will continue to build a strong, safer and more vibrant Thuringowa.

While I am still on my feet, I would like to take this opportunity to send my thoughts and prayers to our defence community in Townsville, especially the families of those soldiers who were injured today and to the family of the soldier who has tragically passed. We are a very proud garrison city and we are ready to support you and your family through this tragedy.

Housing Affordability

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.57 pm): More than 2,000 children were homeless in Brisbane last year; that is 48 per cent more than in the previous year and about half of those kids are under four years old. We have to ask: why? It is because governments want house prices to keep going up. Here is how they are doing it: we will start with the Albanese government's five per cent deposit scheme which has already sparked a scramble to buy in an overheated market but it is not ordinary renters who get a look in. Instead, investors rushed to buy up homes in September, knowing that the government's plan will push prices even higher.

In the three months leading up to September, Brisbane house prices rose 3.5 per cent. The median home price is now almost \$1 million. Now let us break that down. With every month that passed, you needed an additional \$10,000 to buy an average home in Brisbane, so people were absolutely sprinting to catch up but, meanwhile, the finish line is just vanishing into impossibility. So where do Brisbane renters find any hope now? Certainly not with the LNP. Its two per cent deposit scheme that we heard about earlier this year was flooded with more than 11,000 applications within a month. As far as we know, they are still offering only 1,000 places over two years—one-tenth of those people. The government says it will expand the scheme but here is the problem: again, it is a demand-side policy so if it is of any meaningful size at all it will just continue to inflate prices, but investors are cheering.

Last week the LNP ditched a requirement for 20 per cent affordable housing in the Woolloongabba priority development area because—get this—the developers did not like it. You are telling me that developers want to make the most profit they can? I mean, sure, it will leave people stuck, perpetually renting or sleeping in parks, but the developers do not like it so the LNP has kowtowed to them. Well, colour me shocked.

We have to ask: where is Labor on this? The Greens and especially the former member for South Brisbane, Amy MacMahon, fought tooth and nail to get even minimum affordable housing requirements for the Gabba. Now the LNP has ditched them and, as far as I can tell, we have not heard a peep from the local Labor members. As far as I know, they did not even make a submission on the proposal. In fact, it was left to my council colleague, the Gabba ward councillor Trina Massey, and me to call for affordable housing minimums in the Gabba. Why is it only the Greens that are calling to mandate a higher proportion of public and affordable housing in these new developments? Why are we the only ones calling to regulate rent increases and to create a public developer? Our communities deserve better. The 1,230 families that were homeless in Brisbane last year deserve better. It is time to put profit aside and put affordability first.

(Time expired)

Warrego Highway

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.00 pm): It is a pleasure to rise this afternoon and speak about a highway that is very important to us all. The Warrego Highway, the A2 or M2, is the major east-west freight route for Queensland and it is a very important tributary to our national freight route. I thank my colleagues who have supported and worked hard with us to see this put on the agenda. Those who

travel the highway know that at times of flooding the road gets cut. It is very important for our major freight route that that road does not get cut during times of flooding. Equally as important is the safety of my community and all those who travel on that road. It is very important that the road is upgraded for that reason.

Transport and Main Roads did not tell me their numbers, but when I compare this to similar infrastructure projects across the state I think it will cost about \$300 million to fix the road: \$90 million to \$100 million to make safe the crossover and about \$200 million for the flood immunity issue. Along with my colleague Scott Buchholz, whom I thank for his advocacy, I call on the federal government to put this major freight route on the agenda with an 80-20 split, which is historically what happens with major road projects. It is very important to see an 80-20 split so that we can get this major freight route developed.

This is about national sovereignty. It is about making sure that at times of flood this major route, which takes traffic up to Darwin and down south, stays open to traffic once Toowoomba is reached so that freight can get through. As we know, without trucks Australia stops. I am an advocate for not only our freight industry but also the safety of our local people. The RACQ rated an intersection on the highway as the third worst in Queensland for a safe crossing distance, which is the available gap between vehicles on the highway, such is the increase in traffic flow and also the increase in operations in our local area.

The Warrego Highway is a major freight route. Again, I stress to the federal government that this should be on the national agenda. I thank Scotty Buchholz for fighting for an 80-20 split. I thank our minister, Hon. Brent Mickelberg, for his advocacy for work to be done to fix the flooding issues to ensure the safety of our community and all the communities out to Toowoomba and beyond that are absolutely hamstrung when that road is cut due to flooding. Please, let us see an 80-20 split for that upgrade. Let us see the road improved once and for all.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 18 September (see p. 2916), on motion of Mr Hunt—

That the House take note of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee Report No. 16, 58th Parliament, *Oversight of the Queensland Child and Family Commission*, tabled on 5 September 2025.



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (3.03 pm): I am pleased to rise to make a contribution to this debate. The committee report gives us a very clear picture of the Queensland Family and Child Commission's work and its commitment to transparency, accountability and the safety of children across our state. Of course, it also starkly reminds us just how far this LNP government and, in particular, this Minister for Child Safety have fallen short of some of these standards.

The QFCC's annual report has a strong focus on just how critical transparency and high-quality data are to keeping children safe. The Child Death Review Board, hosted by the QFCC, maintains Queensland's comprehensive child death register. The data collected through that process helps drive vital prevention work across agencies, from developing better risk indicators to information sharing with research partners and the Coroners Court. It is a powerful reminder that accurate, reliable data saves lives. Of course, the Minister for Child Safety's bungled Unify program puts systems that rely on that quality data at risk. Unify was meant to strengthen information sharing. Instead, it has put vulnerable children at risk. The QFCC relies on accurate data because child safety cannot run on guesswork. This is not just a software failure; it a failure of leadership and a failure that impacts—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I understand we are debating report No. 16 into the QFCC, not the matters to which the member is talking.

Ms FENTIMAN: We are debating the QFCC report and the committee report gives us—

Mrs Frecklington: And the issues in it.

Ms FENTIMAN: Yes and I am very happy to go to this matter of relevance because 'data' is mentioned over 250 times in the QFCC's annual report. Data about child safety from the government—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Ms FENTIMAN:—is mentioned as being vital to the QFCC's work. I am still concluding my point of order, with respect, Attorney. Page 16 of the annual report states that they use data to improve the

sector's understanding of risk factors. Page 19 of the QFCC annual report states that they use a range of data to understand intended outcomes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Thank you, member.

Ms FENTIMAN: I am being highly relevant, with respect.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Did you have another point of order, Attorney?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: In response, Mr Deputy Speaker, to the honourable member's point of order, the data we are talking about is Labor's failures under report 16 and to the date that it is referring to.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Attorney-General. Member for McConnel, I was taking a point of order. I will seek some advice. Member for Waterford, I have sought advice. Just because the report refers to data does not enliven your opportunity to speak in breadth about the other matters that are being discussed. Could you confine your discussion to the data and the reports of the commissioner, please?

Ms FENTIMAN: At page 90, the QFCC 2023-24 annual report states—

An inability to source high-quality data outcomes—reduces our capacity to effectively monitor the impact of the child and family support system, restricting our ability to drive improvements and build a culture of accountability.

I would take that to mean that the Unify rollout has proved the QFCC right. Case records are missing and data feeds are broken. This is from the annual report and the transparency that the QFCC—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order related to the contribution by the member for Waterford. My point of order goes to relevance in relation to the particular reporting period that is referenced there. There is a narrow scope with respect to what the committee was looking at with respect to a time period. That is what this report relates to, not to matters that may be canvassed in the current financial period.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. The advice that I received was very clear that the report does speak about some—

Ms FENTIMAN: The importance of data.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, please do not be argumentative. I have sought advice. If you confine your contribution to the report then that will be very helpful for the House.

Ms FENTIMAN: As I was saying, the QFCC stresses in its report how important it is to have good data. It stresses how vital it is to have good data to keep children safe. Here we have a child safety system which has completely destroyed the trust of other agencies and regulatory bodies such as the QFCC. Child safety officers and the community now have no faith in the child safety system because of the implementation of Unify.

Government members interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: It is entirely relevant.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to this particular report and the reporting period that it relates to. There are specific parameters in relation to what the committee was tasked to look at—with respect to not only the matters that it had to canvass but also the specific reporting period. I would question the relevance of the member's contribution given that we are talking about a specific period of time under the committee's remit related to those specific matters. I would ask you to draw the member for Waterford back to the specifics.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. You were going very well, member for Waterford.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Obviously, we are looking at data from 2023-24. We are examining it to educate ourselves about how we use data going forward. That is what this report is about.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nice try, member for Logan. There is no point of order. The member for Waterford was going very well in her three sentences and then she started going back to matters outside the scope of this report. Please stick to the contents of this report. That will help the House.

Ms FENTIMAN: Again, I want to stress—

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take that interjection from the member for Everton. I do not have to change a thing because this report on the QFCC talks extensively about the importance of quality data and keeping kids safe. We have seen an incredible failing by the child safety minister when it comes to keeping children safe.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, let's direct comments through the chair. Let's calm down. There is a broad discussion about data but that does not enliven current situations that are not referred to in this report. There may be a very broad or tenuous link to some of those things in the past that we could learn from, but that is not something for you to debate in the House now. We are here to debate the committee report on the commission that has been tabled.

Ms FENTIMAN: Page 16 of the QFCC's annual report states that the QFCC uses data to improve the sector's understanding of risk factors. What happens when the child safety department has terrible data and there is a backlog of dangerous cases? That means—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, member for Currumbin and member for Everton, your contributions are not helpful and your interjections are not being taken.

Ms FENTIMAN: If this sector and regulator is unable to identify risk factors, what happens to these vulnerable children? That is my point. Having good data systems and having a minister who is prepared to ask the tough questions about systems that keep that data and those children safe is absolutely essential to the QFCC being able to do its job.

The commission is successfully using digital platforms to make quality, reliable system data accessible. It is the child safety department that has to provide that data to the QFCC so that it can perform its oversight function. If the data from the child safety department is not up to scratch, which we have clearly seen evidence of over the past couple of weeks, children will be at risk. That is what this report says. The minister needs to come in here and answer serious questions.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (3.13 pm): It is obvious that the opposition have seen a report with the words 'QFCC' and thought, 'Hang on, let's try to mention something that is not relevant to our failures.' This report of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee—I thank the chair, Marty Hunt—is absolutely damning of the former Labor government and its failed systems and its failed ministers. Obviously, they have not read the report and just saw the words 'QFCC'. This report provides an insight into the dying days of the former Labor government and the decade of decline under the former Labor government, and specifically the period when the member for Jordan—the most incompetent of all five Labor failed child safety ministers—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is. The member for Jordan was in charge of the child protection and child safety system. The member for Waterford admitted in her contribution that the data is shocking. It is absolutely shocking. Labor's record is shameful and shocking. When they should have been protecting our most vulnerable in the community they were too busy supporting their bullyboy mates in the CFMEU, ensuring their wallets were bulging with cash. Under Labor's decade of decline—

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I am not sure what the CFMEU has to do with the QFCC annual report and I am not sure the minister could find a reference for it even if she tried.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): There is some relevance—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Point taken, and I will move on from the CFMEU. I received the QFCC's 2023-24 annual report and it does make for sobering reading. There is a conga line of Labor's failed child safety ministers. Who do we have? We have the member for Waterford, the member for Bulimba, the member for Nudgee, the former member for Barron River and, of course, the member for Jordan. The system was left in chaos and disrepair.

When the member for Jordan was at the helm, this was the state of the child protection and child safety system in Queensland—so we are clear, the report that we are debating in the House today is about this time; the time when the member for Jordan was the child safety minister—7.6 per cent of all children involved with Child Safety were reported as absent or missing from care, placing them at a greater risk of sexual harm, exploitation, abuse, assault and rape. At this time, response times to

commence investigations were continuing to increase, with it taking up to nine weeks for case workers to sight a child after a notification was commenced.

For the benefit of the chamber, this was when Labor was in government. The report that we are debating now relates to the former Labor government. Further, there was a rapidly growing number of child safety cases without full investigation. We are talking about data. The data in the report tells us that under Labor this was a tenfold increase from 2019. Infant mortality rates were significantly higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants than for non-Indigenous infants. Expenditure on family services, based on a per-child spend, remained significantly lower than in Victoria and New South Wales. The child protection and family support workforce faced ever-growing challenges, with only 32 per cent of workers able to spend enough time with children.

Again, this is a report that the opposition want to debate, but it is about them. They have not caught up to that. This report signifies everything Labor touches fails. We know that when they touch something it breaks, including the child—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Including watch houses under the former minister.

Mr Purdie: What about the watch house crisis?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We will get to that. Who created the watch house crisis? I take that interjection.

Ms Farmer interjected.

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

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Another failed corrective services minister under the former Labor government. Come in spinner when we are talking about—

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member should come back to the committee report, please.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Mansfield.

Mrs GERBER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. At page 9 of the committee report it states—

In Queensland, more children and young people are being held in watch houses for longer periods.

It is relevant. The committee considered it. It is in the QFCC's annual report.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The matter is relevant, there is no point of order, member for Mansfield.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I believe that interjection just told us everything we need to know. Those opposite have not even read the report. All they saw was 'QFCC' and thought, 'Let's have a go.' Guess what? The report is into their failures—each and every one of the systems that were broken by the member for Waterford, the member for Bulimba, the member for Nudgee, the former member for Barron River and, worst of all, the member for Jordan. This report is about the failures of the former Labor government, and you have to stay on track.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.19 pm): I am here to talk about the report and to try not to politicise anything! I guess I miss my time on the justice and legal affairs committee and the oversight of that—as much as I love our current committee, of course, with you as the chair, Deputy Speaker McDonald.

I did want to hop up and make a couple of brief remarks in relation to the report. The first is to acknowledge the fantastic work that the QFCC does. I have had the privilege of working with them for a long time and I know a lot of the members there. The work they do is outstanding in terms of providing that essential oversighting function for the entire system. The work they do on the Child Death Review Board is phenomenal as well.

I want to give my thanks to Luke Twyford. His position was extended in this reporting period, and I want to give my congratulations to him on that. I want to give my thanks to Nat Lewis, whom I am sure we have all met, who is one of the most formidable champions that we have, not just in Queensland but across the entire country. Nat is absolutely fantastic in the work she does.

The QFCC has a range of different functions, as we all know, and one of those is around increasing capability and collaboration and improving education throughout the whole sector. There are a couple of quick remarks I want to make in relation to that. There are a couple of reports, contained in this committee report, that the QFCC have authored that I think are really worth mentioning in this House. The first is *I was raised by a checklist*, which is an incredible report that the QFCC has authored

looking into children's and young people's experiences of their time in residential care. We would all accept that when children slip into the residential care system, a lot of systems have failed for that to be occurring. It is a really haunting read. I encourage people to pick it up and have a look at it. Among the opening statements, when the children are asked, 'What's good about residential care?' the responses are, 'It was better than being homeless,' and 'Having food.' Those are really stark comments to make, and all of us as members should be listening to these comments and thinking, 'What can we do to improve the lives of these kids in the residential care system?'

Across the entire child protection system, we know there is incredible overlap between the kids who are in residential care and the kids who are in youth justice. These are our children. They are Queensland's children. They are children in our own communities. If they are in care and if they are in prison, we have all collectively failed them. I want to urge everybody to really think about that and have a look at that report.

The second report is quite a big report titled *Who's responsible: understanding why young people are being held longer in Queensland watch houses*. As parliamentarians, we really do need to have a deep look at this. More children are being held in watch houses in Queensland than anywhere else in this country. Something has failed there, absolutely.

Mr Purdie: It is coming down.

Ms BUSH: Well, it is not going down. I take the interjection. It is going down because we are double-bedding them in the prison system. They are not out of the system, Minister. They are not out of the system; they are still in the system. We are not actually delivering them.

Government members interjected.

Ms BUSH: Look, I will be honest: this is part of the problem—when these things become political footballs. We need to be working together. This is a problem that we all own.

Mr Watts interjected.

Ms BUSH: Thank you. I am not taking the interjection. I was responding to an interjection. I am not debating this issue with you.

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

Ms BUSH: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The point is that this is our problem to solve. There is an issue with why there are more children in Queensland, more than in any other jurisdiction, sitting in prisons right now, sitting in watch houses longer and on remand longer.

Unfortunately, as we sit here I heard the Attorney-General say that this report is actually about Labor. You would think that on coming to government they would do something different—that they would enliven it, that they would try to solve this problem. Instead what we are seeing are policies that are creating a bigger gap, that are worsening the problem. We are now locking up more kids than we ever have. There are no solutions to be found in there. There are no trauma responses in there. We are removing them from communities and removing them from education. There is a reason we are seeing reports like the youth crime crisis getting worse: it is because prisons do not fix these problems; communities fix these problems. We need a real reset here. We are not seeing it from this government at the moment.

I will finish my speech on the Unify system. It has been very disappointing to see the response from that. I will pick up on the point of order. It is actually covered in the annual report. The QFCC is mentioned in that report. It is directly relevant to this debate. To have the minister evade the questions this week on what has—

Mr Mander: It is irrelevant.

Ms BUSH: I will take the interjection. It is relevant. It is directly relevant to the QFCC annual report.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cooper, I received clear guidance from the clerks at the table about the report containing statistics and tables and a reference to the Unify system from a report in the past. Criticism of the current minister is too far a stretch. Please confine your contributions to the report which was for some time ago.

Ms BUSH: Thank you. The point that I want to make here is: it was an issue that was raised in the 2023-24 QFCC report on the importance of the implementation of the Unify rollout. There are serious questions that need to be answered by this minister and we need an independent inquiry.

(Time expired)



Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.25 pm): The committee reviewed the QFCC's annual report for 2023-24. That is the period that the annual report covered and that is the period that those opposite, Labor, were in government. It covers the work that the QFCC did over that period, and the findings and the recommendations that the QFCC made were over the period of 2023-24. It paints a sorry picture of the previous Labor government. I will pick up on two points. Page 9 of the committee's report states—

In Queensland, more children and young people are being held in watch houses for longer periods.

The annual report of the QFCC details that in February 2023 there were young people who had been detained in a watch house for a period of 25 to 32 days. In February 2023, young people were in a watch house for up to 32 days. I can update the House that today—right now—there are three young people in the watch house and the longest they have been is four days. That is a fellow in Cairns who is waiting to be transferred right now. He has a bed in detention. Every single one of those youths waiting for transfer has a bed. However, under those opposite, youths languished in watch houses for up to 32 days. Do members want to know why? The report drops a pin on it. The report drops a pin on when that happened. It happened because the Labor government failed to invest in the infrastructure—failed to build detention centres—and then transferred 17-year-olds out of the correctional system and into the youth justice system, without having the capacity to deal with it. That is why we had the watch house crisis, and this report lays it bare. The Crisafulli government opened Wacol in April 2025. That is how we got those numbers down. That is why we no longer have youths languishing with adults in watch houses, as this report lays bare. For 32 days Labor let youth remain in adult watch houses.

The second part of this report says with regard to Labor's model in 2023-24—

The Queensland model of youth justice is not effectively rehabilitating offenders.

If we go to the QFCC's annual report we see that they in fact did a whole report on exiting youth detention, preventing crime by improving post-release support. They found that the Queensland Labor government abysmally failed in their 72-hour plans. It followed the Auditor-General's report in 2023-24 that said that 72-hour plans are not based on any evidence, that they are not rehabilitating and that they are failing youths left, right and centre. The QFCC in their annual report recommended that the government fund 12 months of intensive rehabilitation. Did Labor do it? That was recommended in 2023-24. Labor did not do it. Did they fund the 12 months of intensive rehabilitation that the QFCC called for in this report? No, they did not. The Crisafulli government is. We are delivering that for Queenslanders, we are delivering that for young people in our detention centres, and we are delivering that for our Queensland communities.

We have funded 12 months of rehabilitation support for every single youth who exits a detention centre to ensure there is proper planning to stop the cycle of reoffending that was left to fester under the former Labor government. The recommendations are all here, and they failed to implement them. This is an abysmal report card for the previous Labor government. It sets out what they should have done and what they failed to do.

The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queenslanders. We are delivering our Staying on Track program, which provides every single youth with 12 months of rehabilitation. It was recommended back in 2023-24 and Labor failed to do it. They refused to do it, but they allowed the youth crime crisis to spiral out of control.

The other aspect this reports covers is the crossover cohort—that is, the crossover of child safety and youth justice. The report unveils that, under Labor, almost 30 per cent of the serious repeat offenders were in the care of the state. That was a pipeline into youth justice under the failed former ministers opposite me, including the member for Bulimba, who is about to address this report. I hope she deals with her failures to implement those policies. It is a damning indictment on the former Labor government.

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance in relation to the words of the minister. She mentioned a very small number of young people in detention, one of whom is waiting to be transported. That is clearly a breach of their privacy. That student should not be able to be identified, and I would suggest it be taken out of *Hansard*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Mansfield, there is no point of order.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members! Member for Mansfield, there is no point of order. If there is an issue, you can write to the Speaker and Hansard to have that addressed.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin.

Government members interjected.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

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



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (3.31 pm): It is always good to follow the member for Currumbin. She is clearly off her meds today.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Bulimba, that comment is completely disorderly and I ask you to withdraw.

Ms FARMER: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are already on a warning.

Mrs GERBER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to that abhorrent and disgusting comment by the member for Bulimba, and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has already withdrawn.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Given that the member for Bulimba is on a warning, I would ask you to consider that matter and make a ruling with respect to that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. I have considered that and that did go through my mind. Member for Bulimba, you are here very tenuously. You have the call.

Ms FARMER: I rise to speak to the JICS report titled *Oversight of the Queensland Child and Family Commission*. From the outset, I thank the Commissioner, Mr Luke Twyford, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commissioner, Ms Natalie Lewis, for their outstanding work in protecting the rights of Queensland's most vulnerable children. Their evidence-based oversight of Queensland's child protection and youth justice systems have contributed to the development of policy in these areas and influenced many important reforms and initiatives not just in the period that this report refers to but also in preceding years.

The thought leadership they have provided to government and to the sector on behalf of our kids is so critical. By maintaining the child death register and hosting the Child Death Review Board, the QFCC has contributed to our learning of how our system can work better, and we must learn from these deaths. We cannot let them be for nought.

We all agree that protecting our kids is right up there in terms of some of the most important things a government can do. That goes without saying. We want to keep our kids safe and healthy, we do not want bad people looking after them and we want to provide support to the vulnerable. Irrefutably, these are all universal concerns.

Of all of the people in this House, only a child safety minister or a former child safety minister really knows that the depravity in which many of these people live far exceeds what the average member would ever come across—things that are beyond the imagination of the average person's wildest nightmares or the most horrific book or movie. Ministers or former ministers of child safety are confronted with these stories daily, which is why our jobs are so important and which is why we must make really sound decisions.

We also really need people like those at the QFCC. I just want to go to some of the functions of the QFCC. As we know, they hold the Child Death Review Board for administrative purposes, which conducts systemic reviews following the death of a child. This is connected to the child protection system, and they can make recommendations about systemic improvements to practices which respond to the findings of such reviews. They must know why a child died. They must have all of the evidence available to them. They must have data in order for the system to be better. It does not matter what year it is—in 2023-24 it was important—because every year it is absolutely critical that the Child Death Review Board has the information before it so it can actually help make good decisions.

They are required to maintain a comprehensive child death register, and we know that the register in the last year recorded 422 deaths. The information and data within the register inform multiple cross-agency prevention projects, like improved risk indicators for drowning, co-sleeping and suicide.

They also share data with research partners and the Coroners Court. Data is everything, and correct data is absolutely everything. The use of high-quality datasets underscores how reliable and consistent data can drive child safety reform, and any breakdown in the data system can obstruct that reform. The QFCC have access to that register so they can learn from those statistics. In fact, in 2023-24 the QFCC responded to 25 requests from researchers and government agencies for detailed data from the register.

The annual report documents the QFCC's performance in relation to five key objectives. They do monitoring and reviewing. They look at important statistical work, like the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Queensland's child protection system. We know this. We must be making decisions based on data, on good figures and on evidence for those children. We must know: how many there are, where they are, why they have become vulnerable and why they passed away. We cannot mention that word that starts with the letter U, but it is so clear that data has to be everything and the government must keep data safe.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.37 pm): I want to make a contribution to the committee's report in relation to the operations of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, in particular their 2023-24 report. In a previous life as the shadow attorney-general these matters concerned me quite substantially, and in a previous life as an opposition leader they concerned me very greatly. There may be new members in this House who do not remember the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of Mason Jett Lee, but I remember them. I remember the lack of action that was taken with respect to that matter, and I remember the terrible outcome.

It is important that when we consider these reports we consider whether change has been made and whether these reports are showing that there has been a beneficial outcome to children who are in the care of the state either through the department or in the youth justice system. In my time as shadow attorney-general there were a number of recommendations made in relation to the length of time that people, particularly First Nations people, were held in custody in what, quite frankly, were unacceptable conditions. In that sense, having just listened to the member for Bulimba, it is appropriate that we consider the reports *Exiting youth detention* and *Who's responsible: understanding why young people are being held longer in Queensland watch houses*. The member for Currumbin covered off on this. I remember specifically raising this in Cairns because of the impact it had up there, where it was occurring. In February 2023 the Public Guardian raised concerns with us regarding 13 young people who had been detained in a watch house for a period of 25 to 32 days. These concerns came on the back of a slew of evidence available from sources, including the ABC's *Four Corners*.

I remember the member for Bulimba on the ABC *Four Corners* program. I remember it clearly. I have just listened to the member for Bulimba, who has said that we must listen to the data, that these are important matters, that we must learn the lessons and that we must all have concerns. I say: those on that side had 10 years. They had 10 years to learn the lessons. They had 10 years and the data got worse. They had 10 years and we had events like Mason Jett Lee and the other children who died in the care of the state or while under the care or the observation of the departments of the state administered by those opposite. With Mason Jett Lee, did anyone ever pay a price? Was any bureaucrat ever held accountable? Was any minister ever held accountable? Who paid the price? Mason Jett Lee paid the price, and we waited years for the reports.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I draw your attention to the period of time to which the reports pertain—both the QFCC report and the committee report reporting on the QFCC's operations in 2023-24. I am seeking assurances from the member that his commentary is relevant to that period and those reports.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I will get some advice. Member for Clayfield, I ask that you make sure your comments remain relevant to the report. For the benefit of members, though, I have been listening to debate from both sides and the debate has been broad. It has also been brought to my attention that the annual report itself on page 145 does make reference to the 'progressive roll-out of Unify'. It would not be my intention to impede the debate based on relevance on both sides. I think members here should be entitled to discuss the report, making the argument that what you are discussing does come back to the report.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will move on from that because it was a tragic and sad story that I think has never been resolved.

Turning to other commentary in relation to the committee report, the committee report does stand as an indictment of the former government. Queensland had the third highest rate of children in

protection services. The number of carer families is not increasing at the rate of demand. We heard time and time again how the former Labor government was going to increase the number of foster carers with the money that they spent on it, yet the number of carer families is not increasing. Then we read in this report—

The Queensland model of youth justice is not effectively rehabilitating offenders.

Again, that goes straight to a finding in the report *Exiting youth detention: preventing crime by improving post-release support*. We also found that the 72-hour post-release support implemented by those opposite was not working. That is why our policy was to extend that post-release support. Seventy-two hours was barely enough for those children to exit detention and get home, let alone to have the support they needed to properly and effectively rehabilitate. That was the finding there.

The other interesting part about this report is in relation to the blue card. How many times did we stand up in parliament and in estimates and question the implementation in relation to the recommendations made by Mr Twyford in 2017? Again, we heard the member for Bulimba spouting about learning the lessons and about listening to the data, yet they had a report in front of them from 2017 that still had not been implemented by 2024. What did we get every time we asked a question about it? We got an excuse, an excuse and an excuse. It has taken this Attorney-General and this government to get the ball rolling on those things and to take the steps we are taking, including the amendments that are going to be discussed later on this afternoon to protect children as part of the work that the education minister, the Attorney-General and this government are doing.

This committee report is damning in what it reveals about the failures under a decade of decline. That is why it is important that, yes, we do read this report and, yes, the LNP Crisafulli government delivers for Queenslanders.



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (3.44 pm): I rise to speak on the committee's report and on the Queensland Family and Child Commission annual report 2023-24. I concur: this is a very difficult area. There is no doubt about it when you read about what some children face. I was brought up in a loving environment. Some of the situations that our children face are horrific. Ministers in this portfolio hear about that day in and day out and our hard workers on the front line deal with a multitude of situations that come their way. No member of this House should for one minute expect that they do not want the best solution for those children. At every opportunity they are not going to gloat about something that may not be 100 per cent correct. I put my faith in the fact that everyone in this House, when confronted with these issues in society that a lot of us do not have a lot of control over, would bow their heads and would want to ensure that no child faces what some of our hard workers in the department and our police have to face every day.

To come in here and say that it is somehow based on a failure or based on someone not wanting to do their best or based on not implementing a program that will make life better for these kids is insulting. This will never be a perfect system. We strive, either in government or in opposition, to do what we can to assist the commission with their work so we can get good data and good programs and they can talk about what is working and what is not working, because this is a situation of continuous improvement.

Let me tell those in government: not everything you do is going to improve the plight of these children overnight. There is no magic pudding. If the member for Currumbin and minister wants to come in here and talk about how many kids are in watch houses, she can thank Labor for building the Wacol centre because that was opened in April 2025, as she stated in this House. You do not build a centre like that in four months. I do not care how good you are. That comes from good planning and taking advice. There is never a situation where you are going to solve every problem. What is important and what comes out of this report in all of the statistics that the commission is gathering is that the program they rely on has to be 100 per cent operational. On page 145 the QFCC annual report states—

The investment in Unify, a new case management system for child safety, should deliver increased capacity and capability for collaborative best practice.

I am quoting from page 145. It goes on—

Child Safety is finalising the update of its Integrated Client Management System and will continue the progressive roll-out of Unify, its new data system in 2024-2025. Unify is client-centric and will improve information sharing and collaboration across Queensland Government agencies.

Aren't they going to be disappointed! What an absolute catastrophe that is happening with Unify. It is an absolute disgrace that they put money ahead of a program that is going to keep those children

safe. We have heard the director-general say that they pressed the green button on this. They did it in government—they pressed go on this system.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know there was a ruling in relation to a single line in this report. Again, this report does relate to a specific period in time. I submit to you that the member for McConnel is conflating different time periods, with respect, to what this committee was tasked to do. Again, I am rising on relevance given that there were specific matters and a specific time period.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I find there is no point of order as long as the member can relate what she is talking about now back to the report, and there is a mention of the progressive rollout of Unify in the report. I also refer back to what I have said previously about trying to be reasonable. Both sides have been debating quite broadly and it would not be my intention to shut down debate.

Ms GRACE: They do not like hearing it. We have children at risk and the minister wants to blame everyone else but herself. It is everyone else's fault. It is the director-general. It is the staff. Everybody knew about this—stakeholders knew, the union knew, the staff knew, the director-general knew, senior people knew. The only one who did not know was Colonel Schultz, the Minister for Child Safety. 'I know nothing.' It is everybody else's fault. It is a disgrace that we are here now and it is squarely the fault of the current minister.

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (3.50 pm): I rise to address the House on the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's report No. 16 of the 58th Parliament titled *Oversight of the Queensland Child and Family Commission*. As I have been listening to my colleagues outline, these are facts in relation to the 2023-24 financial year, which is clearly a time when the Labor Party was in government.

Mr McCALLUM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Can I confirm whether or not the member for Maroochydore used an unparliamentary term?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): My apologies, member; I did not hear it. For the benefit of the House, member, if you did, could you withdraw?

Ms SIMPSON: I have no idea what the word is.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That being the case, member, you will be able to write to the Speaker.

Ms SIMPSON: I am reading this and I cannot see any offensive words. I am talking about committee report No. 16 and I am referencing the fact that I have been listening to my colleagues on the LNP benches and the fact that this report relates to the 2023-24 financial year when the Labor Party was in government.

There have been significant issues, particularly with child safety, children in care and children within the justice system. As we know, there is a disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in child protection and the youth justice system. The former Labor Party government failed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. This trauma and neglect was compounded on their watch.

I also recognise the figures that the member for Clayfield and Minister for Health and the Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Youth Justice outlined with regard to the watch house fail that also happened under Labor's watch. When the member for McConnel tried to say they fixed it by building things, she did not reference the fact that Labor put 17-year-olds into the youth detention system when there was no capacity and caused the very issue where there were between 25 and 32 young people left in watch houses—not in detention—because of the meltdown in the youth detention system that happened because of Labor's mismanagement.

That is compounding trauma. That is causing additional neglect to young people because to have young people staying in watch houses for 25 to 32 days is absolutely disgraceful. That is the impact of the decade of decline that we saw under Labor. There was a lot of talk—and we still see a lot of talk but not a lot of responsibility—in relation to the fact that they were the ones who caused that blowout in the youth detention system and also, disgracefully, a disproportionate number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths in watch houses when they should have been in more appropriate facilities.

I want to also address the issue of early intervention. It has been identified that it was necessary. It was all talk and no action again from the Labor Party. I want to acknowledge and thank the Minister for Youth Justice and Minister for Corrective Services, who just this morning announced a very worthy recipient of a Kickstarter grant—an Indigenous gym and on country program in Mount Isa. This is in

addition to the Regional Reset program announced earlier this year to be delivered by the Kokoda Youth Foundation. It is an intensive early intervention program for at-risk youths aged 12 to 17 in the Ipswich-Darling Downs region. There are more early intervention programs rolling out right across the state under the Crisafulli LNP government. I know that the minister will be making more announcements because these early intervention programs will give at-risk young people the tools they need to turn their lives around, make better decisions and head away from a life of crime.

Labor had 10 years to implement early intervention strategies to help protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths and steer young Indigenous children away from a life of crime and damage, but they failed to do it. They failed victims and they failed children. It is important to note that victims are disproportionately Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as well. They are not the only ones who are impacted by—

(Time expired)



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (3.56 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on report No. 16 of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee titled *Oversight of the Queensland Child and Family Commission*. This report reflects a body of work that goes to the very heart of child safety, system accountability and the rights of Queensland children. The QFCC's role is to promote the safety, wellbeing and best interests of all children, to hold systems accountable and to shine a light on where they fail.

Established under the Family and Child Commission Act, the QFCC, constituted as a statutory body, holds a significant position of authority and oversight of the child protection system, analysing and evaluating at a systemic level policies and practices relevant to the child protection system and the performance of relevant agencies in delivering services as well as assisting relevant agencies to evaluate the efficacy of programs and identify the most effective service models. The commission is also responsible for maintaining the Child Death Register, hosting the board which conducts systemic reviews following the death of a child.

Having leadership over the child protection system is an incredibly weighty role. Having had the privilege of serving as child safety minister in this state, I appreciate that keenly. It is much easier to throw stones, criticise and deflect blame to others than to step up and provide the genuine empathy, leadership and responsibility that such a role requires. The commission does that. The former child safety ministers on this side of the House did that and the Child Death Review Board does that. I thank them for their genuine service to vulnerable children and families in Queensland.

In this report the commission completed 14 oversight reviews and made 20 recommendations to the government. Their work spanned youth justice, child protection and the intersections between them, including their important review into 'crossover' kids and young people absent from care. They also produced 32 submissions to state, federal and international inquiries—a testament to their deep engagement with evidence and lived experience across the sector.

One of the standout achievements from the reporting period was the launch of the Principal Focus dashboard. As a national first, this digital tool provides transparent quarterly data on the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland's child protection system. This commitment to data transparency is not just a technical exercise; it is imperative because quality data is what allows service providers in communities to understand what is working and what is not. Yet, as the QFCC's own risk management framework warns and as we have heard, poor quality or inaccessible data is one of the biggest strategic risks facing Queensland's child protection system. Alarming, the commission's warning has now become a reality with the government's mishandled rollout of the Unify system, which has undermined the very data that frontline child safety—

Mr HUNT: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There have been various rulings about speaking about current computer systems. As chair of the committee, we had oversight of that period of time of the annual report and we reported on our investigations of that period of time. I am sure next year's report might canvass Labor's failures in relation to the release of systems et cetera, but this year's report does not deal with that. Speakers are continually bringing this current system up.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Member, you are speaking directly to the report.

Ms LINARD: I am.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to ask you to adjourn the debate because we have reached the time for the conclusion of this debate.

Debate, on motion of Ms Linard, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Error in Division

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I have been advised by the Clerk that there was an error in calculating the vote in division No. 2 earlier today. The division was on the question that leave be granted for the member for Gaven to move an amendment to the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. The error does not affect the outcome of the vote; however, the record needs to be corrected. The result of the division was, in fact, ayes 34 and noes 49. In accordance with standing order 106(11), I have instructed the Clerk to amend the *Record of Proceedings*.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved that, pursuant to standing order 136, the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee report on the Defamation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 28 November 2025; the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee report on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) by 28 November 2025; and the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee report on the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill by 5 December 2025.

The committee has resolved that, pursuant to standing order 194B, the Auditor-General's *Report 2: 2025-26—Managing the ethical risks of artificial intelligence* be referred to the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee; and the Auditor-General's *Report 3: 2025-26—2025 status of Auditor-General's recommendations* be referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.01 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—
That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 28 October 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 14 March (see p. 514).

Second Reading

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (4.02 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On 14 March 2025, I introduced the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025 into the Legislative Assembly and it was referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee for examination. On 2 May 2025, the committee tabled its report on the bill and made two recommendations, including that the bill be passed. The second recommendation was for the government to further consider the proposed age eligibility reform for home education, which I will refer to later in my speech. I table the government response to the committee's report.

Tabled paper: Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 2, 58th Parliament—Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill, government response.

I would like to thank the committee for their considered and thorough examination of the bill. I also express my appreciation to the organisations and individual stakeholders who made a submission or appeared before the committee to inform the committee's deliberations, and for the work of departmental witnesses.

Before turning to the bill itself, I note for the benefit of the House that I will be moving amendments during consideration in detail of the bill. These amendments will strengthen protection of children in early childhood education and care settings and support operational changes for the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. In addition, the amendments will bring forward the commencement of Queensland's reportable conduct scheme under the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024, for all sectors, to 1 July 2026.

The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering a fresh start for Queenslanders where students are empowered to reach their full potential. In March 2025, we reached a landmark agreement with the Australian government through the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement. This will see an estimated \$2.8 billion in additional Commonwealth funding delivered to Queensland state schools over the next 10 years. This funding, combined with additional Queensland investment, will ensure the Crisafulli government delivers a world-class education for all Queensland students across our state.

Turning to the bill, delivery of a world-class education system requires not only a responsive legislative framework but also sustained and collaborative efforts with all stakeholders. This bill includes reforms which support the Queensland government's commitment to reducing red tape and the administrative burden on schools. I will turn first to red tape.

I note that the committee dedicated time during its hearings to examine how the bill itself, and other measures actioned by the Queensland government, will reduce red tape. Throughout term 1 of 2025, the Department of Education conducted extensive consultation to build an understanding of red-tape pressures currently experienced by Queensland state school teachers. Consultation mechanisms included establishing a Red Tape Reduction Working Group, comprising peak education stakeholders as well as four current classroom teachers and four current school principals.

Face-to-face consultation forums were offered in 20 locations around Queensland as well as virtual consultation sessions open to different role types, including teachers, principals, teacher aides and business managers in Queensland state schools. There were targeted consultation sessions for specific cohorts, such as small-school principals, special school principals and partnership initiative principals. One-on-one interviews were held with key stakeholders and system leaders, and a survey was open throughout term 1 to all Department of Education staff. The commitment to establish a Red Tape Reduction Working Group was completed ahead of the first 100 days milestone, with the first meeting convened in December 2024. Consultation was undertaken from February 2025 to April 2025, concluding at the end of term 1. From this, a red-tape-reduction consultation report was released in May 2025.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order with respect to relevance. The minister's commentary is not strictly relevant to the bill. I raise this so that the minister and the House are on notice that, should other members wish to discuss similar types of elements that are on the very broad peripheries of this sector, we will be relying on the commentary of the minister in this speech. Otherwise, he should remain relevant.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that that is not really a point of order. The minister is being relevant to his speech and is clearly articulating a contribution in relation to the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill. Mr Deputy Speaker, I would submit to you that the Manager of Opposition Business's point of order is not relevant in relation to what he has referenced.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Minister, I am listening to your debate and ask that you continue.

Mr LANGBROEK: A Red Tape Reduction Action Plan—which is referenced in the bill, and which reflected the issues and priorities identified through consultation and the measures to be implemented—was shared with Queensland state school teachers and leaders for consultation and feedback in term 2, between May and June 2025. The finalised Red Tape Reduction Plan 2025-28, incorporating feedback from term 2 consultation, is scheduled to be released shortly. This plan will be progressively implemented over this term of government—that is, to October 2028—and will feature regular reporting and feedback mechanisms so that educators can remain engaged, informed and empowered to implement measures at their local level.

The Crisafulli government is committed to investing in systems, simplifying processes and removing unnecessary steps and requirements to decrease duplication for teachers to allow them to focus on what matters most: teaching and learning. The actions combined aim to create a tangible difference that is felt on the ground by teachers and school leaders. The goal is to ensure that reforms are not just statistically significant but also make a real difference in the daily work life of teachers and

school leaders by supporting them to be more effective in their professional roles and restoring respect for the teaching profession.

This focus on working to reduce red tape and the regulatory burden is reflected in the majority of measures I have brought forward in this bill. For example, the bill reduces the administrative burden for teachers and parents by streamlining access to approved online services used in so many of our state schools to support digital learning and student administration. The bill also supports the home education sector by extending age eligibility for home education registration by 12 months, removing a regulatory barrier to student related financial and education supports for students who wish to remain registered until the end of the year in which they turn 18.

The bill reduces the administrative burden on state school principals by enabling them to delegate the telling of suspension decisions. The bill streamlines enrolment transfer processes for students already enrolled at Queensland state special schools, reducing the administrative burden on state special school principals and reducing uncertainty for parents and students waiting on the outcome of enrolment decisions.

The bill supports the operations of our parents and citizens' associations by enabling them to operate more responsively to their local needs. The bill supports our non-state school principals and governing bodies by clarifying that information can be provided by a non-state school principal or the non-state school's governing body to the chief executive of the Department of Education. The bill supports access to eKindy by reducing regulatory barriers through clarifying distance and medical eligibility criteria for the kindergarten distance education program. Alongside these reforms that reduce regulatory burdens by streamlining administrative processes, clarifying how legislation applies or removing legislative obstacles, the bill also promotes student and school community safety by mandating the use of transfer notes when students move between Queensland schools. It has been very encouraging to see the broad support from a range of stakeholders for the reforms in the bill.

To support the deliberation of the House on the matters in this bill, I will highlight key aspects of the reforms. Firstly there is approved online services. As members may be aware, Queensland state schools are supported by a variety of third-party technology solutions. Every day, teachers in our state schools can use online services with students to support delivery of the curriculum, learning activities and assessment, class collaboration, or to create and publish class work. State schools also use online services to manage school operations and communicate with parents.

The Department of Education's Online Services Risk Review Catalogue has more than 695 online services that have been assessed for use in state schools. Individual state schools may be using hundreds of online services at any one time. To support student access to some online services, personal information may be required to register an account, for example, the student's name, date of birth, achievement data, email addresses and school data. There is a growing demand from schools to use online services to support teaching, learning and school administration.

Parents of independent students are required to provide consent where personal information is recorded, used, stored or disclosed for each individual service they access, or the service requires this in their terms and conditions. As can be understood from the number of online services being used, schools and parents tell us this consent process has become overly burdensome. In their contribution to the committee process, the Queensland Secondary Principals' Association said—

The online services—

amendments—

will absolutely reduce the red tape or the demands on principals'—

and teachers'—

time ...

To address the growing administrative burden, the bill sets out that—for approved online services only—personal information about a student that is necessary for the use of the approved online service can be recorded, used and disclosed by an employee of the department to an approved online service. Only online services that are required to support the education needs of students or support effective administration in state schools can be an approved online service and only if they meet the other criteria set out in legislation. The criteria set out in the bill requires contracts with the entities providing the online services that binds them to information privacy requirements, and the online service must be assessed as being suitable to protect the privacy and security of information about the student.

The assessment of online services is conducted in accordance with Safer Technologies 4 Schools, a nationally endorsed and used approach to evaluating digital products and services in schools across Australia and New Zealand, against a consistent security and privacy control framework. This framework was developed with 'privacy by design' and 'safety by design' principles and considers the information collected, the purpose for collecting the information, where the information is stored, student intellectual property rights and for how long information may be stored. The bill also requires the chief executive to ensure a list of all approved online services is made available for public inspection. This supports transparency about approved online services for students and parents.

I note that some stakeholders identified questions about privacy and management of data when considering these reforms. Assessment of the privacy impacts of the proposed reforms and ways in which the Department of Education's obligations under the Information Privacy Act 2009 can be met were key considerations during development of the proposal. The bill supports this by requiring the chief executive to be satisfied that a contract or arrangement with the online service provider qualifies as a service arrangement and that this entity is considered a bound contracted service provider under the Information Privacy Act 2009. This requires the entity to meet key obligations under that Act.

Should a parent or an independent student wish to opt out of using an approved online service, they will still be able to do so. They can opt out at any time by advising the school in writing and schools must provide acknowledgement of the advice and record it, ensuring it is applied for the student. I clarify that for an online service that requires sensitive information, individual consent will still be required. Examples of sensitive information include: racial or ethnic origin and religious beliefs as well as other matters such as health and biometric information. The purpose of the amendments in the bill is to reduce the administrative burden and support the efficient and safe use of third-party services while providing a practical approach for the use of approved online services.

I turn now to home education age eligibility. Parents and students in the home education sector have welcomed the proposed reform to amend the current age eligibility for home education registration. Under the EGPA bill, students can only be registered for home education until the end of the year in which they turn 17. In some cases, parents and students have indicated that they would like to continue registration for home education until the student is older. Accordingly, the bill increases the current age eligibility requirement by 12 months. This means eligibility for registration ends on 31 December in the year the young person turns 18.

The change will remove a regulatory barrier and alleviate stress on parents and students in the home education sector who wish to remain registered for home education in the year the student turns 18. The change is significant for all home educated young people and their families and particularly for those with complex learning needs. The change facilitates access to student related financial and education supports for those students. For example, secondary students registered for home education will continue to be eligible for the Queensland government textbook and resource allowance, which provides financial assistance to parents of secondary students to offset the cost of education. Registered students can also access vocational education and training or be eligible to participate in school-based competitions, sports or activities.

The bill provides eligibility for an overall 13 years of education whilst being registered for home education, equivalent to the preparatory year, or the prep year, through to year 12 in a school. Registration is not compulsory to the age of 18 years. The compulsory participation phase ends at 17 years. This reform simply supports those parents and students who wish to have home education registration until 31 December of the year in which the student turns 18 years of age.

A small number of stakeholders proposed extending age eligibility still further, including that age eligibility should be extended to 18 years and six months or be modelled on the home education framework in New South Wales. I note that the committee recommended that the government give further consideration around the extension of the age eligibility of students in home education by six months, to 31 December in the year that the student turns 18 and six months. Every jurisdiction in Australia manages the regulation of home education locally and there are differences between jurisdictions. In New South Wales, for example, a parent must make new applications for home education registration at least every two years if home education is to be continued. In Queensland, registration continues as long as the requirements of registration are met.

Some stakeholders also made a comparison with student entitlements in state schooling. When a decision is made in a school environment by a principal or the chief executive to provide a student with additional time to complete their education, the decision is subject to extensive consideration of the needs of the student and how these may be met. There is currently no mechanism to manage this

approach for home educated children. Therefore, any future considerations would need to understand the options in a home education context. The Queensland government understands that it is essential to meaningfully engage with all home-educating families on any changes to the legislative framework that supports home education in Queensland.

To date, it has not been demonstrated that further extending age eligibility to 18 years and six months is the most appropriate option to holistically address the varied needs and circumstances of all home education families, nor how this would be assessed and implemented. This is why further engagement with the home education sector is required to inform any future options. On balance, the Crisafulli government considers the proposed reform extending eligibility for home education registration to the age of 18 years to be appropriate. The proposed reform will also enable students to continue to receive benefits related to their registered status at ages equivalent to students in state and non-state schools. In order to realise ongoing access to continued registration and supports and resources for home-educating families with students this year and to support those to apply for continued registration from next year, the bill will commence these amendments on assent.

I turn now to the telling of suspension decisions. Principals make significant decisions every day. The reform to provide for a state school principal to delegate the telling of a suspension decision to another senior member of staff is one action that we can take to reduce the regulatory burden for our state school principals. Principals will still be the decision-maker. This power stays with principals to ensure that decision-making for such important matters remains at a high level. Suspension decisions are not made lightly and principals consider a range of matters when making such decisions. The ability to engage another senior member of staff to communicate such decisions to students and their families supports not only the administrative responsibilities of principals but also the provision of timely advice to students and parents or carers about suspension decisions.

Several stakeholders during the committee process, including the Queensland Secondary Principals' Association, noted this as a particular benefit of this reform, in addition to reducing the workload on principals. I also note that having a power to delegate does not mean that a principal must do so. Some principals may choose to continue to undertake the telling of a suspension decision. The reform provides a clear authority to delegate where a principal decides that this best meets their school's needs. This represents a clear red-tape-reduction initiative for our school leaders whilst also ensuring that the telling of a suspension decision can be managed at the appropriate level to support the student and family.

I turn now to special school enrolment transfers. It was encouraging to see that the Queensland Family and Child Commission, the Queensland Teachers' Union, the Independent Education Union and the Isolated Children's Parents' Association all support the proposed special schools reforms as a means to simplify the process for transfer of enrolment and reduce administrative delays. These reforms will reduce red tape and relieve stress on parents to help ensure that students with disability eligible for enrolment in a Queensland state special school experience smooth transitions to schools that can meet their specific needs and demands.

With regard to parents and citizens' associations, the amendments in the bill relating to P&C associations were included at the request of P&Cs, and consultation with P&Cs Queensland throughout the development of the bill has demonstrated its ongoing support for the proposals. The bill provides for multiple campus P&C associations to be established for schools with multiple campuses. For example, Tagai State College, with 17 campuses located throughout the Torres Strait, each with unique local needs and interests, will be able to have multiple campus P&C associations established that reflect their local context. The bill does not allow for single-campus schools to have more than one P&C. The bill establishes a definition for 'regional school' to support the concept of multiple-campus schools. A regional school will be able to have more than one campus P&C association if it has multiple campuses and is prescribed by regulation.

I note the concern raised by a stakeholder in their submission that these reforms would duplicate functions of school councils. This is not the case. School councils and P&Cs are not interchangeable. They are different entities provided for under different chapters of the E(GP)A with different governance arrangements. The E(GP)A currently provides for school councils through various sections and the role of P&C associations in relation to them. These sections are amended by the bill to support the introduction of amendments to enable multiple campus associations. Where the bill amends provisions about school councils, it is only to include a reference to regional school or campus association. The amendments in the bill do not alter the operations of school councils, or school council membership arrangements, and do not impact school council workloads.

The bill also sets out that the P&C of one school can support the P&C of another school, or another school directly, in particular circumstances such as following a natural disaster. The amendments in the bill are necessary because currently the E(GP)A only provides for a P&C to use funds raised for its own school; it is not able to donate funds to another P&C or school for charitable reasons. I note the commentary through the committee process that P&Cs can already donate goods. Section 132 of the E(GP)A limits what P&Cs can do. It states that any money received by a P&C must be applied to either paying expenses lawfully incurred by that P&C or to achieve the objectives and perform the functions of the P&C. The bill adds that a P&C can, in addition to these two functions, also give assistance via new section 142A. This sets out that a P&C formed for a state instructional institution can give assistance to another state instructional institution if the institution's ability to provide primary, secondary or special education or other educational instruction has been adversely affected by an event such as a natural disaster. The bill clearly provides that this assistance may include financial assistance, other resources or services. This is important. Stakeholders have told us that in some circumstances financial support is more useful than donations of goods, as it allows an affected P&C or school to use financial resources in the best way for their students and the local school community that has been impacted. I also state for the benefit of the House that these amendments do not impact a P&C's taxation or charitable status.

The executive member roles in a P&C are essential to the efficient operation of the P&C. The bill supports this by setting out that a person who has been convicted of an indictable offence can be excluded from holding an executive membership role in a P&C, such as president or treasurer, unless it is a spent conviction. Careful consideration was given to the structure of these reforms. Whilst balancing the need to protect the integrity of P&C executive membership, the decision was made not to impose a legislative burden on P&Cs or individuals by legislatively requiring either the P&C or the individual to obtain a criminal history check. Instead, the bill allows for P&Cs to manage this locally as best suits their individual circumstances. The bill does not prevent a person from becoming an ordinary member of their school P&C.

I turn now to the collection of information from non-state schools. Currently the E(GP)A sets out that the chief executive may ask the principal of a non-state school for certain information but does not expressly authorise the principal of the non-state school to provide that information. Our non-state school sector stakeholders asked for this clarification to be provided in the E(GP)A to put beyond doubt that the information requested by the chief executive can be provided and that the process is compliant under privacy requirements.

The bill amends the E(GP)A to remove any possible doubt by setting out that information requested by the chief executive about students at non-state schools can be provided, and that this process is compliant under privacy requirements. This is a simple step to reduce the regulatory burden on the principals of non-state schools. In addition, the bill also identifies that such information may be in the control of a non-state school's governing body and provides the same clarity for such bodies. Clear legislation is a key tool in reducing the regulatory burden on stakeholders and this amendment has been supported by our non-state school sector stakeholders.

I now turn to eKindy. The reforms proposed in this bill will support families accessing eKindy by reducing the regulatory barriers that establish the application of distance and medical eligibility criteria. Now in its 13th year, eKindy is a comprehensive at-home distance education kindergarten program that continues to ensure children in remote parts of the state, or those who cannot access a centre-based program due to travel, itinerant lifestyles or medical reasons, have a great start to their early learning. The bill delivers reforms to reduce regulatory barriers to accessing eKindy by amending the current medical eligibility criterion for eKindy to be 10 cumulative weeks, rather than 10 consecutive weeks. This means that a child who might be experiencing intermittent medical treatment, for instance, will be eligible for eKindy. The bill also amends the distance criterion for access to eKindy. In this case, the bill amends the criterion to set the 16-kilometre distance from the child's home to a centre-based service delivering an approved education program, or to a prescribed state school that offers a state delivered kindergarten program. This promotes access for children to quality kindergarten programs delivered by early childhood teachers to best prepare them for school.

With respect to transfer notes, the bill also amends the E(GP)A to provide for the mandatory and proportionate sharing of relevant student information when students transfer between Queensland state and non-state schools. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse considered that proportionate and proactive information sharing when students transfer between schools could support student safety and wellbeing, and that of staff and others at the student's new school. These amendments respond to that recommendation. I note that stakeholders, while broadly

supporting the mandatory use of transfer notes and the importance of information sharing, offered considerations about data security, administrative requirements and timeframes. Stakeholders also noted the importance of having state-and-non-state school sectors working together to provide the most effective use of information.

The bill sets out a framework that requires the principal of a student's new school to request a transfer note from the principal of the student's previous school, or from any school the student may have attended in the previous 12 months. The bill provides that the request must be made within 90 days of the student commencing at their new school and 10 days for the principal of the previous school to provide the transfer note. The Department of Education will provide guidelines to support principals to implement the changes, including determining the proportionate information that should be included in a transfer note, when they should be requested and how information should be managed. Privacy requirements will continue to apply; the bill does not change this.

The Department of Education will also consider leveraging systems and processes for secure and efficient information sharing arising from ongoing national work to support information sharing for interstate student transfers and a Unique Student Identifier, with a focus on a whole-of-sector approach to manage the implementation consistently.

The Crisafulli government is focused on working with our schools and teachers to identify and deliver opportunities to reduce red tape. The bill makes minor technical amendments to update legislative cross-references, ensuring the accuracy of Queensland legislation. We know there is more work to be done. This bill is just one step forward in the work the Crisafulli government is taking to reduce red tape for our teachers and principals and to support student and school safety.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (4.33 pm): I rise to speak on the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025. What a wait it has been. Of course, the bill was first introduced by the minister in March of this year and here we are seven months later—almost to the day—finally debating the legislation in the House. What a shame we have had to wait so long for education to be given some sort of priority in the legislative agenda of this government or, in fact, any agenda of this government because despite a pretty hefty charter letter from the Premier to the Minister for Education and lots of motherhood statements and aside from re-announcing Labor initiatives like our new schools, our free kindy—that was a cracker that one; our behaviour boost—this very bill, in fact; and a range of other things—talk about stealing our homework, we have pretty much seen nothing delivered from this minister that they actually said they were going to do. In fact, what must be surely one of the most important portfolios of this government—making sure that every child has access to a high-quality education, no matter who they are or where they are in Queensland, should surely be one of this government's greatest priorities. But here we are almost a year into this government—you would think something would be happening—and, sadly, education is way down on the priority list of this government. We know the minister never wanted the job. He oversaw the first industrial action by teachers in 16 years and he does not even bother to talk to stakeholders so he can keep across what is going on, but I digress.

Before I delve into the bill, I of course want to thank every single member of our school communities across our beautiful state for your dedication and commitment. Our staff—principals, teachers, teacher aides, business managers, cleaners, specialist staff—and all the others who work so hard for our kids. I have to mention the homeschooling parents there, too, because they are parents and unpaid staff. In this place, we strive to ensure the laws we pass and the measures we introduce can help deliver the best education for our children but our work is nothing without the tens of thousands of Queenslanders who keep our state education system running. To them, we say thank you. To the volunteers, the parents and carers who contribute so much to the positive ecosystem of our school: please know how much you are appreciated. And, of course, to all our staff in regional and central offices: you do so much, thank you.

Turning to the bill, I indicate at the outset that the Queensland Labor opposition will be supporting this bill. This is not least because many of the measures contained within the current form of the bill were present in the bill I introduced into the House in 2024 which lapsed with the dissolution of the 57th Parliament. The department outlined the differences in the committee hearings earlier this year, excluding the exemption of the homeschooling amendment which was part of a separate discussion. The bill includes from Labor's bill: streamlining the use of approved online services in state schools and in special school enrolments; the P&C amendments; the information sharing obligations for non-state school principals, as well as the approach to eKindy and transfer notes; and a number of technical amendments. In the lapsed bill there were a number of amendments regarding school discipline and enrolments. There is one amendment from the school discipline and enrolment section of the lapsed

bill that is part of the bill before the House now; that is, a principal is able to delegate the telling of an SDA, or school disciplinary absence, and we support that.

There is a broader issue here and, clearly, the minister has chosen to try to make that go away, rather than address it through legislation, policy or any other process because it is hard. It is really hard and he is just a lazy minister. To say that the issue of SDAs is a vexed issue would be the understatement of the century. On the one hand, we know that teachers and principals feel they are under pressure not to suspend troublesome students when those same students can make such a negative impact on them and their classrooms. They feel they have few options and insufficient support for handling those students without deviating from their fundamental belief in every student having the right to a good quality education. This dilemma is one of the reasons we announced the funding for behaviour management in schools which the LNP has re-announced multiple times as their own.

On the other side of the argument, we know that disability and other advocates feel that suspending these students is not the answer and that it does not address the underlying reasons for their behaviour. It is tricky stuff—that is what government is actually all about and it needs to be addressed. It is why Labor brought proponents from both sides of the issue together in one room over the course of last year to work towards consensus. The minister has now deleted these amendments. I have no news of any bilateral discussions about this pressing issue. He has just deleted the amendments so he does not have to think of any solutions.

There were amendments in our bill for gendered language. They are not in this bill. They were pretty harmless. Our bill proposed amendments to a number of sections of the E(GP)A to remove the use of gendered language. According to the explanatory notes on that bill—

The use of gendered language in the EGP Act does not align with contemporary practice and approaches to gender and sex.

For example, that bill would have replaced references to 'his' or 'her' with 'child' or 'young person'. Wow! How scary is that? How scary is it to use the words 'child' and 'young person' instead of 'him' and 'her'? It just shows how completely off the ranch these people are. 'Let's us not talk about values,' the Premier told the LNP state conference this year, but, of course, what would you expect from a government that pauses—for 'pauses' read 'cancels'—gender-affirming care? In our bill there were proposals to introduce guiding principles. They are not in this bill.

I would like to comment on each of the amendments. Goodness, which to start with? I guess I will go with the way the minister framed the introduction of the bill and his media release. His introductory speech was all about red-tape reduction and he talked about that quite a lot in his speech just now. The heading of the media release is 'A Fresh Start for Queensland: Red tape reductions to be sealed in law'. The media statement states—

The Crisafulli Government is delivering a fresh start for Queensland and has today introduced new laws to Parliament to ease the administrative burden ...

Reducing red tape by 25 percent over four years is a key election commitment of the Crisafulli Government, with the amendments—

our amendments—

to help streamline processes for principals, teachers, and school staff.

In his introductory speech, the minister mentioned reducing the administrative burden or the regulatory burden at least 15 times that we counted, but it might have been more. Your eyes glaze over after a while. The explanatory notes reference this as being about red-tape reduction. One of their key election and charter letter commitments was to reduce red tape by 25 per cent. In fact, it was the only education target in the government's 100-day plan, but education is a bit low down on their priority list. Given that, you would think, 'Wow! There's going to be some really big stuff in this bill about reducing red tape.' Unfortunately, that is not the case.

I asked the department about this in the committee hearing. I know the officers who appeared before us. They are top people. They are the best. I asked them—

Could you take us through each of the elements which relate to the administrative burden on teachers in this bill and quantify for us by how much they will contribute to that reduction of 25 per cent and how in fact it will be measured?

I did feel sorry for them having to find some way not to dump the minister in his own hubris. Really, that must be a daily struggle for them with this minister, but they faithfully soldiered on. They said—

... we have not quantified the exact impact of each individual amendment.

Regarding red tape in general, they said—

We know that it will not be an exact science because not all of the impacts are exactly quantifiable.

Further—

We know that as an early activity in implementing this we are working to establish a baseline.

There is no baseline to measure where the 25 per cent comes from. They referred to a few things that might result in red-tape reduction but, unfortunately, it is not possible to quantify them. I thank those public servants for their excellent work. Please know that this is no criticism of them. I am so sorry that I had to put those questions so that they had to defend their minister.

I want to read something that a teacher sent to the Premier, the minister and the Labor opposition. I do not know if the Premier and the minister replied. If they did then I would love to know how they defended themselves. That teacher said—

Every time I hear a headline-grabbing political statement like “we will reduce red tape in schools by 25%”, I feel a mixture of frustration and disbelief. Because without specific, measurable, and transparent detail, that claim means absolutely nothing to the people actually doing the work. Worse still, when made without substance, it becomes offensive to the professionals who are expected to carry out the education of our state’s young people while already drowning in duplicative, low-impact bureaucracy.

A vague promise is not a plan. It’s spin.

That teacher is not alone. They are one of many teachers asking this government to plainly outline how they will reduce red tape by 25 per cent, as promised. By specifying a target, the government have in fact made themselves a target—by having no tangible way to measure how.

In response to a question on notice, the minister told us that their red-tape-reduction plan was scheduled for release in term 3 of 2025, with specific metrics apparently—you would hope—including by how much this particular bill was going to reduce red tape. I heard the minister talking about it before and apparently it is soon, but he did say in his answer to the QoN that it was scheduled for release in term 3 of 2025. It is now the third week of term 4. Let’s not even go there, given what teachers said when they were getting ready to come back to school this term and started looking at OneSchool. Having identified fixing OneSchool as one of their top asks for reducing red tape, what did they find? Less red tape? Less paperwork? Less admin? No! All they got was more blue. Hooley dooley! In fact, it was all blue. My phone was running hot that weekend and then some. There were so many comments on various social media platforms, including my own, that it was hard for me to pick which ones to share with the House, but here are a few—

- Trying to track along the screen when marking the roll is nearly impossible.
- It seems the department is not listening to responses to their own survey—everyone said that the clunky and dysfunctional OneSchool system was a major workload and red tape issue, but all they’ve done is change the colour and make it harder to use.
- It is so painful to use—it actually hurts my eyes. Never thought I would miss yellow so much ... Still a clunky program to use.

A government member: They had 10 years and they failed so they’re in opposition.

Ms FARMER: I take the interjection. It is so unfortunate that cabinet ministers—but I am not sure who it was—are disparaging about comments from actual teachers. That is completely rude and disrespectful to teachers. I will continue with comments from teachers—

- It’s very hard to read! The whole system needs an upgrade.
- A new colour scheme that makes everything more difficult to see and navigate.
- It’s actually more red tape as in the contact section there are extra boxes to fill in!

Thanks for contributing to the red tape, Minister! To summarise most of the comments for the benefit of the House, what teachers were talking about was how angry they all were that, after hearing all of the rhetoric from the government about how important it was to them to reduce red tape by 25 per cent because they care about teachers so much and teachers had told them OneSchool should be top of the list of red-tape reduction, of all of the things the government could do with OneSchool it was changing the colour of OneSchool to blue that mattered most to them.

When the minister put out his media release claiming this bill was the pinnacle of red-tape reduction, we can only assume that he was just trying to dupe the Premier into thinking he was doing what he was supposed to do for his first 100-day target. Maybe the minister did not even bother checking whether the bill would make a difference. Either way would not surprise me, as he is not exactly jumping out of his skin to do his job—and we know these ministers never seem to ask any questions whatsoever about what is put in front of them.

I move to the amendments related to P&Cs. Every single member of this House would know of the extremely important contribution that P&Cs and P&Fs make to our school communities. I give a shout-out to the amazing P&Cs in my electorate that do incredible work for Bulimba State School, Cannon Hill State School, Morningside State School, Murarrie State School, Norman Park State School, Seven Hills State School and Balmoral State High School and that the P&Fs do for St Oliver Plunket, Sts Peter and Paul's, St Thomas', CHAC and Lourdes Hill schools.

The amendments within the bill support the better operation of P&Cs through extending arrangements allowing for P&Cs to be formed where a school operates from more than one campus, particularly those with vast geographical differences. Amendments also allow P&Cs to make donations to other school P&Cs. This is particularly important as it relates to schools affected by natural disasters where the impacts of that disaster have affected the provision of supplies in the school. Of course, we are about to head into disaster season. The amendment will also provide further assurances to P&Cs, particularly in the Far North, that they will be able to better support each other during difficult times. The bill prevents anyone from committing an indictable offence to gain or retain membership of an executive committee or subcommittee. I note that all of these amendments were also contained in the former bill.

While talking about P&Cs, I give a big shout-out to P&Cs Queensland, which does a great job, and, of course, the Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network and Catholic School Parents Queensland. I am sure all of us would pass on our best wishes to Carmel Nash from Catholic School Parents Queensland who has had some significant health issues. She is an absolute treasure to all of us. I was delighted to have one of my regular catch-ups with P&Cs Queensland last week and to hear some great statistics, including that, while volunteering numbers in Queensland in general are going down—and I think in most places—P&C volunteer numbers are actually going up. Clever them; and what a credit to them all.

What a shame the minister does not spend more time with them so that he can understand their issues. Perhaps there might have been some more issues that they may have wanted covered in this bill. If only he had asked them. Having perused his diaries—I do that on a regular basis—it is distressing that he has literally met with P&Cs Queensland only once this year, in addition to a joint parent group meeting. Though, of course, he did say at estimates that he meets with stakeholders quarterly. I suppose I should write to the Speaker about him misleading parliament. He missed the annual P&Cs Queensland conference, which was held in his own electorate. He actually had the member for Warrego fly in in her own plane rather than attend himself, even when he was home from a Tasmania trip. It is insulting and crazy not to make sure he is across issues for school parents.

Speaking of not engaging with stakeholders, I now turn to the amendment relating to homeschooling. I welcome the homeschooling parents who are in the gallery today. The amendment says that a child is eligible for provisional registration or registration for home education until 31 December in the year the child turns 18 and will maintain eligibility for student related financial supports and education resources.

I know when I withdrew the bill last year that the homeschoolers had been keen for this amendment to go ahead on its own as it was uncontroversial. However, I said at the time that I wanted to make sure we had properly canvassed all the issues for homeschoolers given the strength of their concern about the bill and that rather than doing things in a piecemeal fashion we should wait until the review I put in place had been completed. Then we would come back to the House with further legislation if necessary.

As we all know, that review did take place. Although the report was delivered in September last year, it was not until the opposition pushed for information on it that the government even remembered that the report was there, released it and announced that they had accepted all the recommendations. That was in July—nine months after they came to government. In the meantime, representatives from the home education sector have been meeting as members of the Home Education Expert Group—the HEEG, which I set up to ensure homeschoolers were better supported. I understand that that group has been working well. I know this because I speak to homeschoolers and I have asked them about this.

The minister said before when referring to this amendment that he understands that homeschoolers are delighted, or words like that. I do not actually know how he would know that because he did not bother to meet with the home education people before he introduced the bill to see if there was anything else they might want. Do we think he remembered that they had been deeply upset by the previous bill and that therefore it might be a good idea to make sure they are okay and there is nothing else they might want to do. Not a chance! His diaries show that he did not meet with them

before reintroducing the bill with virtually no change and he certainly has not met with them since. This is a key group of stakeholders.

Recent research shows that Queensland has seen the biggest growth in homeschooling of any state or territory between 2021 and 2025, with an increase in registration for primary school of 110 per cent and an increase in registration for secondary schools of 167 per cent. I table the article from the *Conversation* that refers to that.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Conversation*, dated 6 October 2025, titled 'More and more Australian families are homeschooling. How can we make sure they do it well?'

Stakeholders say that, right across cabinet, they cannot get in to meet a minister. Most stakeholders say that about this minister. This is a government that is not interested in stakeholders in general. Stakeholders are saying across every portfolio that ministers do not want to hear what they have to offer and what they can learn from their experience and expertise, and show them respect. The minister could go up to the gallery now and see the home education people. They are nice people and they do not bite.

It was lovely to see the new home education page up on the EQ website yesterday. I know the free2homeschool members were thrilled. But how funny that the new page went up yesterday—13 months after it was first suggested. One would almost think that they were worried we had noticed that they had not done anything and that is why it went up the day before we debate the E(GP)A Bill. Enhancing website accessibility was one of the recommendations of the review of homeschooling the Labor government undertook last year.

Before I move from this discussion about homeschoolers, I want to flag now, in case we do not have the opportunity in consideration in detail, the recommendation in the committee report that there be further consideration about the extension of the age eligibility of students in home education by six months to 31 December in the year the student turns 18 years and six months. I heard the minister refer to this and say it needs to be looked at. It has been seven months since the committee made that recommendation. The minister could have had the department on the job. He could have spoken to the home education parents so that he was able to take this opportunity to move an amendment in relation to that. I do not think he cares about home education. Look at the number of kids who are engaging in home education. We cannot ignore this sector.

I say to the minister that the figures around the sharp increase in homeschooling in Queensland warrant attention. That is why we set up the HEEG. It is critical to talk to homeschoolers to understand the issues for their families and how our education system can best support them and provide the opportunities that kids in mainstream school have. We are talking about a lot of Queensland kids.

On the issue of transfer notes, the bill removes the requirement for students who have already been assessed and enrolled at a special school to undertake further assessment before transferring to another special school. This is a commonsense amendment that will streamline what is an already stressful process for parents seeking to move their children between schools. I could refer to the minister's unfortunate comments at the Queensland Association of Special Education Leaders conference, but I think we are across those. The bill creates a mandatory requirement for the use of transfer notes between schools, meaning the principal at a child's new school, the school they transfer to, will be required to seek a note from the principal at their old school, the school they transferred from, within 90 days of enrolment. I note that this amendment was also contained in the previous bill.

The amendment is as a result of the work undertaken during the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Recommendation 8.13 of the royal commission outlined the need for this requirement to protect students from harmful behaviours and better support those with lived experience of child sexual abuse.

In terms of digital learning, as all members can appreciate, in an ever-changing digital world, it is important for institutions to remain modern but vigilant. The amendments to the bill streamline the framework and protocols surrounding approved online services, enabling information about a student relevant to the use of that online service to be recorded, used and disclosed by an employee of the department to an approved service. In their submission to the committee during consideration of the bill, the Office of the Information Commissioner stated—

... given the Department's reliance on external online service providers, OIC submits it could implement further measures to ensure the personal information of state school students' (and often sensitive information) is appropriately collected, stored, used and disclosed.

A number of submitters expressed concern about protective mechanisms in this space, which are all absolutely justified. Those submissions should all be noted.

That is even more the case now that we have had the pretty scary experience in the last week of seeing the train wreck of the handling by the Minister for Communities and the Minister for Youth Justice of the new Unify system. They exerted no scrutiny over that whatsoever. They did not think it was their job to ask about it. They took no responsibility for the data of the state's most vulnerable children. Queenslanders have a right to be worried about whether these people are actually up to the job in the digital space—or in fact in any space.

Just taking the evidence submitted in the committee process on its own, the Queensland Labor opposition accept that this should be considered further as suggested by the OIC and other submitters—that is, further mechanisms to protect that information and a potential future provision on these matters including the management of any breaches of access to student information being reported by the department via a mechanism such as the department's annual report. We ask the government to peruse these submissions for future consideration.

I note the amendments that were tabled by the minister on early education and child safety. They will be supported by the opposition. Both of these issues are incredibly important. It certainly would have been appreciated if we had a bit more time to discuss them with the minister. It would have been a very important conversation.

This is a general education bill which, as the explanatory notes state, underpins the education system in Queensland. I cannot speak to it in this House without going to the elephant in the room, which is the failure of this government to give teachers the pay and conditions they deserve. That they should continue to dig their heels in and not ensure that our teachers feel valued, that their pay and conditions are some of the best—if not the best—in the nation, defies belief. That they should not have made any significant progress a year into the term on the five interest areas, which the minister could not even name, one day after the strike action by teachers, defies belief.

There is hardly a greater responsibility you could give another human being than to help make your child a good and happy person who can lead a good and happy life, yet that is what we ask teachers to do every single day. They deserve our respect. They deserve to feel valued. I ask the minister and I ask the government: please, show them that respect.

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (5.01 pm): 'Drowning', 'exhausted', 'failed'—those are the words of teachers, and that reflects exactly what the failed former education minister left at the end of their term of government. I was one of those teachers who had to experience that we would provide feedback again and again and yet were put in circumstances where teachers did not feel safe at work, where teachers were not allowed to do what drives them each and every day—that is, to teach. Every student has a right to learn and no class should miss out on learning because of the individual rights of one. The custodians in our school—the amazing teacher aides, the librarians, the people who walked around our school doing cleaning—wanted to have pride in their school and pride in their place, yet each and every day we would see the same behaviours repeated, the same things broken again and again, with no consequences. Then we knew that the system had failed.

I am proud to be working with the education minister and the Crisafulli LNP government to change things for our teachers and our students because they deserve nothing less. I am proud to be part of a government that is going to deliver reform. While we have talked and consulted, we will deliver and not leave things hanging.

Today I rise to speak on the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025. It instigates positive reforms to support our young Queenslanders and the amazing hardworking educators who invest their lives into providing a brighter future for Queenslanders. The Crisafulli government, like every Queensland educator, wants our children to succeed. This bill is about reducing red tape which distracts our educators from their first purpose and passion. It also supports our classrooms by prioritising learning and is taking action to provide safety in schools. Importantly, these steps are for the safety of our staff and our students alike. I know there is more work to do, and I am glad to be part of a team that will deliver because the learning communities of Queensland deserve nothing less.

Let's look at the practical steps this bill takes, starting with the streamlining of student access to online services for digital learning. We live in an age where students each and every day in their classrooms and in their schools are expected to engage through apps and through websites to access learning, yet the antiquated system the department was using meant that the burden it was placing on our schools, administrators and families was duplicative and added time that was not necessary. By providing this opportunity, we are actually reducing the red tape attached to gaining and maintaining permissions, simplifying the systems for schools and families, providing the security of demonstrating

our knowledge and understanding, and having the research undertaken to ensure we are taking steps in the right direction for our families, and reflecting the maturity of our systems.

We are also extending the age eligibility of students in home education. We are providing for our principals to delegate the notification of suspension decisions to another of the school's senior staff members. In our schools each and every day, there are hardworking teachers and administrators who work with students and their families to develop learning plans and learning journeys, yet on their hardest day, when things do not go right, we are relying on the principal to be that point of contact. This provides for principals to delegate to decision-makers in their school and say, 'Hey, the relationship you have with this family means that not only are you going to work with them through what has to happen today—the consequences for the actions of that child—but you can talk to them about the journey that will get them to where they want to be, about the supports that we can put in place to help that child get to the end of their education and into the workforce and succeeding,' which I am sure is what every Queenslander wants. That connection is so important. Some in our community have had bad experiences of education in the past. In terms of the knowledge of the parent you have met at parent/teacher interviews, the person you have spoken to when acknowledging the success of a student should be the person who works with you in those hard times—in hard and good. This also means that we give our school administrators the opportunity to go back into the grounds and support their teachers in their classrooms. That is important.

The bill also allows for separate parents and citizens' associations for schools with multiple campuses and enables financial donations between P&Cs under special circumstances. We are providing clarity that, while we understand that charity begins at home, in times when Queenslanders wish to show their solidarity, when school communities wish to demonstrate their financial generosity in support of others, P&Cs can facilitate that.

This bill also further clarifies the provision of information by non-state schools to the Department of Education in relation to school attendance and enrolment. It further clarifies the eligibility criteria of children to access eKindy, making it easier for those in those communities to have a certainty around where they can go. It implements the recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse—the royal commission—in relation to information sharing between Queensland schools when students transfer, providing better information, ensuring that, where possible, the holistic knowledge that supports the entry of a student into a new school environment gives them the best chance for success and gives the school the things they need so they can put the supports in place. It amends various statutes to make commonsense minor and technical amendments.

I had the honour as chair of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee, along with committee members from this House, to inquire into this bill. I want to acknowledge the efforts of the entire committee and the committee secretariat and the very submitters who gave their time. Our committee benefited from the lived experiences of our members, inclusive of a former principal, a former teacher, a former teacher assistant, as well as the shared experiences of many committee members as parents and carers—everyone who wants to see education succeed and wants to see help for our educators, our students and our schools.

The inquiry heard from 34 submitters, conducted a public briefing with officers from the Department of Education and held a public hearing. The wealth of knowledge, the shared wisdom and the willingness of submitters and attendees to invest time and effort was greatly appreciated by all of the members of our committee and provided valuable insight to our inquiry.

The inquiry report was passed unanimously. The changes put forward in this bill are practical steps that will ease the burden on our school community and will make it a little bit better for educators. As I said in my opening remarks, there is so much more to do and I am committed to doing it, as are the education minister and the entire Crisafulli government. These are small steps, but they are steps in the right direction. They are steps that will give back time to our learning community—time that can be invested in our students and in our schools, which is something that everyone in this House can get behind and support. I commend this bill to the House, and I commend the Crisafulli government for bringing these positive reforms into the parliament so we may further support our youngest Queenslanders and the dedicated educators who invest their lives into supporting our young Queenslanders.



Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.10 pm): I rise today to speak on the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025 and reflect on the critical work shaping this legislation. It is a privilege to be a member of the parliamentary committee that conducted the inquiry into this bill. I would like to begin by sincerely thanking every Queenslander who contributed to this process. Whether through

written submissions or appearing at public hearings, their insights have added genuine depth and value to the committee's deliberations.

On this side of the House we understand that the committee process is not just a procedural step; it is a vital part of how we as parliamentarians fulfil our duty to represent our communities. It provides us the opportunity to scrutinise legislation carefully and ensure the voices of everyday Queenslanders are heard before any laws are passed in this chamber.

The Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025 is an example of legislation that has benefited from this rigorous process. It follows a strong foundation laid by the former Miles Labor government which, through its 2024-25 budget, delivered record funding for education in this state—funding that supported the building of schools, the employment of more teachers and the provision of vital classroom resources. That investment affirms our belief that every child, no matter their background or postcode, deserves to have access to a high quality of education. The bill before us today was introduced into the Queensland parliament on 6 March 2024 by the Hon. Di Farmer, the then minister for education and youth justice. It builds on that funding by refining the legislative framework that underpins our education system, improving equity, access and clarity in several key areas.

One area of particular interest is the proposal to extend the age eligibility for home education. The committee recommends extending the cut-off date to 31 December in the year a student turns 18 and six months. The Department of Education has advised that this change will eliminate a regulatory barrier that currently affects some home educated students. Why does this matter? Right now, some students risk losing access to education related supports, funding and opportunities not because of academic performance or personal choice but because of an age restriction. The proposed change will bring home educated students in line with those attending state and non-state schools. It will ensure they can continue participating in sport, accessing educational resources and applying for travel and further learning programs. It is a small but significant amendment that will make a real difference, especially for students who have repeated a grade due to illness, family circumstances or learning needs.

It is also timely. The Australian Psychological Society recently republished a report highlighting a striking trend: home education enrolments have skyrocketed. In just five years enrolments have jumped by an extraordinary 229 per cent from just over 3,400 students in 2019 to more than 11,250 in 2024. That is equivalent to one student missing from every third classroom in Queensland. This dramatic increase signals that home education is no longer a fringe choice. It is a growing mainstream learning mode, and this legislation must reflect this reality.

The committee also noted that some stakeholders, including the Home Education Association, have called for an even broader change. They have proposed increasing the eligibility age to 19, in line with arrangements in New South Wales, which would allow for an additional two years of home education eligibility. While this bill does not go that far, their suggestion reflects a legitimate desire for flexibility and inclusion, which the government may wish to consider in future reviews.

Another bill component relates to parents and citizens' associations, or P&Cs. These organisations play a vital role in supporting our schools, raising funds, fostering community and advocating for students. I thank all those volunteers who work tirelessly in P&Cs across not only Queensland but also Ipswich West. They are an amazing group of people.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, please pause for a minute. Member for Bulimba, you have just passed between me and the member on their feet on three occasions. I would ask you to bear in mind the standing rules and orders. Thank you. You may proceed.

Ms BOURNE: The bill allows schools with multiple campuses to establish P&Cs for each campus. It also enables a P&C to raise funds for another school, a change that could support schools recovering from disaster or hardship. Lastly, it aligns P&C executive eligibility rules with those that apply to school councils, specifically regarding prior convictions for indictable offences. I acknowledge that these provisions may raise questions about participation rights. Indeed, restricting eligibility for P&C leadership positions can impact on an individual's right to participate in public life; however, we must also balance this with the duty of care we owe to our students and communities. The intent of these provisions is not exclusion but protection, ensuring those in positions of trust within our school communities meet appropriate standards.

I turn now to another key part of this bill—the changes to eligibility criteria for eKindy. Clause 35 proposes ensuring children who live more than 16 kilometres from a centre-based service offering a kindergarten program or a state school providing kindergarten are eligible for eKindy. This makes

practical sense, especially for rural and remote Queensland families for whom distance remains a barrier to early learning.

This bill also introduces changes to medical eligibility so that children who will miss more than 10 consecutive weeks due to a health condition can access eKindy. This inclusive measure acknowledges the real-world challenges faced by families caring for unwell children. The Queenslanders with Disability Network provided qualified support for these provisions; however, they raised an important point: eKindy should never become a substitute for genuine inclusion. It should not be used to sideline children with disabilities due to a lack of training or support in mainstream settings. I agree with their view entirely. The purpose of this change must be to increase access, not reinforce exclusion. Our commitment to inclusion must remain firm across all education sectors from early childhood to senior schooling.

The committee received 34 written submissions, conducted a public briefing with the Department of Education and held a public hearing with selected stakeholders. This process was thorough and transparent. I would like to thank everyone who contributed and the committee secretariat for their dedicated work. I also acknowledge the education, employment, training and skills committee, which was the first to review this bill when it was introduced in 2024. Finally, I thank the Education, Arts and Communities Committee, which delivered the most recent report on the bill.

In conclusion, the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025 is a targeted, thoughtful piece of legislation. It reflects a previous government that was responsive to Queensland's changing educational landscape. From homeschooling to early childhood programs and from P&Cs to school equity, this bill is about ensuring no student falls through the cracks and every Queenslanders has a pathway to learn, grow and succeed. My sincere thanks goes to all homeschooling parents—and a number of them live in Ipswich West—who do an amazing job teaching their children at home. I also acknowledge the homeschooling parents in the gallery today and all of the amazing teachers and school staff across Queensland. I would also like to thank P&C Queensland, who also do an amazing job. I will finish by saying Labor will be supporting this bill.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (5.19 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, which continues the Crisafulli government's strong commitment to high-quality education across Queensland. This bill delivers sensible, forward-looking reforms that reduce red tape, support student and school safety and modernise education legislation in practical ways. I am proud, as a former teacher assistant and someone who has worked in schools across Queensland and interstate, to be part of positive change for our teachers and staff.

The education act 2006 forms the backbone of Queensland's education system. It governs everything from compulsory schooling, enrolment and discipline to home education and the functioning of school communities, but as our classrooms and communities evolve so too must our legislation. This bill reflects that evolution. It delivers reform in three clear areas: reducing unnecessary red tape, protecting students' wellbeing and ensuring that our legislative framework continues to reflect the realities of modern schooling. For communities like mine in Pumicestone, where parents and educators consistently express a desire for clarity, efficiency and safety in our schools, these amendments are particularly welcome.

One important change is the streamlining of student access to approved online services. In the modern digital classroom, state schools rely on hundreds of online platforms to deliver and support learning, yet current laws require consent to be obtained for each individual service before student information can be shared. This has become an unsustainable administrative burden for schools and families. The amendments in this bill cut through that red tape by allowing information to be shared with online services approved through a robust privacy and security framework while still allowing parents and students to opt out if they choose. It is a commonsense reform that enables schools to focus less on paperwork and more on learning outcomes.

Another key reform is the expansion of eligibility for home education. This bill allows students to remain registered for home education until the end of the year in which they turn 18, bringing home education into line with eligibility for mainstream schooling and ensuring young people, especially those with complex needs, can finish their senior schooling without unnecessary barriers. In my electorate of Pumicestone, where families are increasingly looking for flexible education options, this change is much welcomed, and I acknowledge our homeschool families in the gallery today.

The bill also supports principals by allowing them to delegate the task of informing students of a suspension decision to another senior staff member such as a deputy principal. It is a simple change

but it acknowledges the workload pressures on our school leaders and enables timely communication with students and families.

Importantly, the bill addresses a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse by making transfer notes mandatory when a student moves from one Queensland school to another. These notes include important information about attendance, learning supports and wellbeing. Until now their use has been optional. That changes with this bill.

These reforms will help ensure continuity in education and the safety of students and staff in all Queensland schools. In Pumicestone, where our schools are at the heart of our community, this legislation will help protect those who teach and those who learn. We are also modernising the operation of the parents and citizens' associations. This bill allows for separate P&C associations to be established at geographically dispersed campuses, like those across the Torres Strait, and enables P&Cs to donate to other school communities affected by disasters. It also strengthens governance by preventing those convicted of indictable offences from holding executive or subcommittee roles, protecting the integrity of P&C operations.

Our schools are at their best when they are safe, well governed and focused on learning. This bill helps deliver that. It is measured, it is practical and it responds to the real needs of modern Queensland schools.

I want to thank the minister for visiting Pumicestone State School and Beachmere State School earlier this year to hear directly from teachers and staff. I know they appreciate his eagerness to gain an understanding of the local issues facing our schools. I look forward to welcoming him back to the electorate soon. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.24 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025. I first will address the child safety amendments. These new child safety amendments bring forward the requirement of specific sectors to implement sooner the Reportable Conduct Scheme protections delivered by the former Labor government last year, and we will support these amendments as they go towards improving the safety of children in this state. Queensland children deserve every protection from child abuse and exploitation. The Reportable Conduct Scheme is designed to do just that—protect children from harm. It will require organisations to report and investigate concerns of harm to children while ensuring consistent and transparent responses across all sectors. Requiring the Reportable Conduct Scheme to be fully implemented by July 2026 will be a further step on the road to delivering those protections.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission will have oversight of the Reportable Conduct Scheme, and I cannot think of a better organisation to lead this important task. In bringing forward the RCS implementation requirement for all sectors to 1 July 2026, it is important that the QFCC, as the administering and independent oversight body, is adequately resourced to deal with this extra demand in a shorter timeframe.

The Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, which the committee consulted on, reflects many of the same amendments proposed by the former Labor government before the dissolution of the 57th Parliament. At the time, Labor committed to genuine consultation, particularly on sensitive reforms such as those relating to school disciplinary absences and homeschooling. Following that consultation, the former government rightly chose not to proceed with those particular provisions without broader community consensus.

It is worth noting that many of the measures now reintroduced by the current government were originally developed, consulted on and supported under Labor. I congratulate former minister Farmer for her diligence and her integrity in managing the consultation process and truly listening to our stakeholders. We welcome their return in this bill. The bill suggests that it focuses on improving clarity, reducing duplication and strengthening student safety and continuity of learning.

I turn to transfers between schools. The removal of the requirement for reassessment when transferring between special schools is a sensible change that prioritises student wellbeing and respects previous assessments. The mandatory use of transfer notes between schools is a clear response to the 2017 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and we support its intent to strengthen information sharing to keep children safe. As the Queensland Secondary Principals' Association noted in their submission, this change enhances safety and ensures 'a more seamless transition' between schools.

I turn to the homeschooling reforms. The bill contains only one provision from the previous homeschooling reform package, and that is the extension of registration eligibility from age 17 to 18.

This change was strongly supported by home education stakeholders at the time—and I welcome them in the gallery today: it is good to see you again—and it continues to enjoy widespread backing. It ensures students completing their education in home settings can do so with ongoing support and access to school-based opportunities like sport and travel.

The digital learning and privacy aspect of the bill establishes a framework for sharing personal information with approved online services. We support this modernisation but we note concerns raised by the Office of the Information Commissioner and PeakCare. The opposition urges the government to take these concerns seriously and ensure appropriate data protections are in place. As schools increasingly rely on external providers, there must be clear accountability for how student information is collected, stored and used.

I turn to support for the P&Cs. This aspect of the bill introduces several practical reforms for parents and citizens' associations. These include allowing P&Cs to donate physical goods to schools in times of natural disasters and enabling multicampus schools to have more tailored representation. Importantly, the bill also bars individuals convicted of indictable offences from serving on a P&C executive committee—a sensible safeguard that aligns with community expectations.

In relation to the behavioural provisions, the ability for principals to delegate the communication of a suspension to a deputy principle or other authorised person is a small, but welcome, change. It reflects the reality of modern school leadership, supporting timely communication with families.

The minister has touted this bill as part of the government's so-called red tape reduction strategy, a key performance indicator in the minister's charter letter, and shadow minister Farmer adequately addressed the alleged red tape reduction measures the minister espouses, despite the leaders of the department being unable to quantify the resultant time teachers and administrators would save. When questioned during the committee process, the department confirmed there were no metrics to measure whether this bill contributes to that 25 per cent reduction goal—no baseline, no benchmarks and no evidence of how this legislation meets the minister's promises.

It reminded me of 2013 when I was on the current minister's department's red tape reduction committee. Interestingly, the opening statement in the policy reads, 'The Newman government is committed to cutting red tape by 20 per cent within the next five years,' and it goes on. That was some 12 years ago. It is rehashed, old policy, despite the learning needs and requirements of our students being so significantly different in 2025. I table a copy of this policy from 2013, rehashed by a lazy minister.

Tabled paper: Education Queensland policy document, undated, titled 'Red tape reduction in Queensland state schools'.

As mentioned earlier, the government appears to be repackaging initiatives already developed under the former Labor government by former minister Farmer and branding them as new. This is not a strategy: it is a rebrand. Further, stakeholders like the Queensland Teachers' Union have expressed concerns that some measures could actually increase the workload, not reduce it. That is not consistent with the LNP's 100-day plan commitment to reduce the administrative burden on our teachers, of which we have seen no reduction.

During the committee process a number of important operational matters were raised by stakeholders which regrettably were not addressed in the committee's report. These issues are of significant concern to stakeholders and the wider community, and I believe it is important they are raised here.

Several stakeholders, including the Queensland Law Society and the Office of the Information Commissioner, expressed concerns about the protection in place for student data, particularly when this data is shared with service providers or third parties. These stakeholders have recommended stronger mechanisms to manage breaches of student data and that the handling of breaches be transparently reported through the department's annual report.

Currently, the bill allows for provisional registration for home education, and I note that the report makes a recommendation in recommendation No. 2. Up until today, and upon hearing comments from the minister, one could assume that no consideration of recommendation No. 2 in the report has occurred in the seven months since the committee tabled the report.

Submitters such as the Queensland Teachers' Union and the Queensland Secondary Principals' Association have proposed the expansion of the current transfer note scheme. The idea is to enable principals to better track students who leave their school and re-enrol in another in either the state or non-state system. A more robust transfer note scheme could play a critical role in reducing the number of disengaged students, lifting educational outcomes and potentially even contributing to the broader

goal of reducing crime and antisocial behaviour. I ask the minister if there is scope within the department or this legislative framework to support the expansion of the transfer note system to improve student engagement and continuity of education.

The Labor opposition supports this bill. Again I congratulate shadow minister Farmer for the work she did as minister for education on this bill. The changes are measured and practical. They streamline systems, improve student safety and respond to the needs of our school communities. We will continue to hold the government to account. We will ensure their rhetoric matches their reality, especially when it comes to delivering on promises to our educators and to our schools. Shadow minister Farmer and I are both very well placed to ensure that the promises made by the minister which reflect the charter letter are implemented.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (5.33 pm): It is a great pressure to talk on this bill today, which was introduced by my colleague, the Hon. John Paul Langbroek, Minister for Education here in the great state of Queensland. He is not only the Minister for Education this term; it is his second time. There is a reason why the honourable minister is the Minister for Education a second time, and that is because he does a great job. He does a great job for all Queensland students, all Queensland families and all Queensland teachers and schools. I thank him for his recent visit to the Scenic Rim electorate to see some of the facilities we have there. Minister Langbroek is a terrific asset to the Department of Education and I say to the minister—through you, of course, Deputy Speaker—that if he keeps up this work he will be regarded as one of the best education ministers this state has ever seen. He is only perhaps behind the Hon. Jack Pizzey, who was a great coalition minister for education some 50 or 60 years ago. He oversaw a massive expansion in the state schooling system here in Queensland, including Beaudesert, Boonah and other parts of the region.

Mr Lister: He was so good, they made him premier.

Mr KRAUSE: I will take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. Thank you, member for Southern Downs. Thank you, Minister Langbroek, for bringing this bill to the House.

I want to take issue with one of the comments from the member for Mansfield whilst acknowledging the opposition's support for the bill; that is, she took issue with the fact that we have brought forward a policy to reduce red tape for teachers. There should always be processes in place to reduce the administrative burden on teachers in our system, particularly after 10 years of Labor. How could you criticise the minister for bringing forward a policy that was necessary after 10 years of Labor and their inaction in dealing with some of the issues that are being dealt with in this bill. We heard from quite a few members opposite that this bill was in the parliament last term but it expired. That is how important it was for them. They brought it forward but did not pass it before the election. It was left to our Minister for Education to bring it forward and pass these important reforms. I will not cop members of the opposition for criticising us for doing what we are doing here because they did not do it.

Teachers are a very important part of our society. That is why this bill is important to the education system here in Queensland. Teachers shape society, they shape children's outlook and potential, and in that way they are a very important part of our societal fabric. I have no hesitation in saying that my mum was a teacher, my brother is a teacher and I have two cousins who are teachers. It is in our family. But for some other circumstances it could have been my chosen vocation as well. It is very important, and that is why it is important that we have reforms to make it easier for them to do their job. That also applies to principals, who manage some very large institutions in the state. Student numbers in some of our larger schools go into the thousands, and the time and effort in dealing with administration in some ways can become a block in terms of doing the things that really need to be done to serve the educational needs of our children. I have heard this many times from principals and teachers as I consult with them in the Scenic Rim electorate when going to visit schools to see what they are doing and hear what the issues are. That is something that has come up various times over the years, so it is good to see those reforms in this bill.

I mentioned the minister's visit earlier this year. When he visited the Scenic Rim electorate we met with stakeholders at the Woodstock facility at Tamborine, which is part of the Youth Enterprise Trust. It is being utilised as an alternative education site by Beaudesert State High School, Yarrabilba State Secondary College, Flagstone State Community College and I think a couple of others as well.

Mr Langbroek: Park Ridge.

Mr KRAUSE: Park Ridge as well; thank you, Minister. You have a better memory than I do sometimes. Thank you for visiting. The important thing that came out of that day was the importance of having alternative sites and activities for certain cohorts of students. We also visited Boonah State High School. I know some of the reforms in this bill are matters that I have discussed with the principal and

staff there on other occasions. We heard all about the great things that are happening at Boonah State High School in supporting not only the whole school but the entire community. Then we moved on to Roadvale State School. It is a very small school with only a few dozen students but it is one that is a longstanding part of that community and it is doing the job well for them. We have a lot of little schools and some bigger ones as well. We got a real cross-section that day, so I appreciate the minister's visit.

I am aware that the minister has met with the QUT on multiple occasions in relation to ongoing negotiations about their awards and conditions. I appreciate that the minister has done that, and I will continue to listen to the concerns of teachers as they come to me as well. It is good that in those discussions we can point to the reforms that are being made through this bill. Even though it has been a few months since the bill went through the committee process, these reforms will become part of the law when the bill is passed by this House.

I want to touch on the issue that was quite prominent during the committee process—that is, extending the age eligibility for home education registration to 18 years. This has been a concern for a number of people in the Scenic Rim electorate so it is good to see the change is being made. I know there are other concerns, so I encourage people who want to raise issues in relation to homeschooling to bring them to me and the government for consideration.

The bill is reducing the administrative burden on state school principals by enabling them to delegate the suspension issues to another member of staff. That is just common sense and it is great to see that it is occurring. It is the same with the streamlining of the student enrolment process and the mandatory use of transfer notes. The bill is also clarifying the provision of information by principals or governing bodies of non-state schools to the Department of Education. This is all common sense and is designed to reduce red tape. We are streamlining administrative issues to make it easier for principals and the people they work with to focus on their main job, which is shaping our students through education, mentorship and all of the other work they do in supporting our children as they move through the education system.

I thank the minister for his work. He is well on the way to becoming the best education minister Queensland has ever seen, apart from perhaps Jack Pizzey. I look forward to welcoming the minister to the Scenic Rim electorate again after this bill has been passed to continue the consultation and hear feedback about things that can be improved in the Scenic Rim electorate and across the broader Queensland education system.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.42 pm): We now know that education begins pretty much from birth and that the years prior to formal schooling starting are incredibly important to a child's overall education. I want to start my contribution by talking about one of the innovations that I am most proud of as a member of this parliament and a member of the Labor Party. Free kindy, which our government was so proud to introduce, allows Queensland parents to access 15 hours of free education for a kindergarten-age child. This child could be as young as three but can be as old as five, because in Queensland parents and kindy teachers work together to determine when a child is ready to start prep.

These are discussions that I am having at this very moment with my Elyse's kindy teachers. She is going to start school at five because she is ready. However, for my son Heath, many years ago, due to advice from his kindy teachers, he repeated a year of kindy. He got an extra year of kindy to allow his speech to develop and his social skills to mature. Since then, like many children who have walked the same path, he has not looked back. That was the right choice for our child, and thanks to free kindy it means that parents will be able to access that free kindy and ensure their children are ready to start school—not simply sent to school because it is time. A kindy teacher's perspective on school readiness is so important. It is another set of input, another set of eyes and expert assistance in making a decision that many parents find daunting at best and sometimes overwhelming.

It is clear that the legislative changes around homeschooling and increasing the age are partly required because, in Queensland, every child now having access to free kindy means that more children than ever will have access to that critical early education and parents will be allowed to decide at what point their child exits that free kindy system. In Queensland, we allow parents to have a strong influence on when their child starts school. This means that, depending on the child's birthday, the child can be as young as four or as old as six, as in my son's case. Children who do an extra year of kindy and are then homeschooled need these changes to ensure they can finish school.

I note that the bill also has clauses which pertain to eKindy which will assist little learners who miss large chunks of kindergarten due to a health condition. I am sure as parents we could imagine nothing worse. With increasing numbers of children likely to access kindy, more children may experience a delayed start to school due to being unwell, and that means more children may require

that change as well. It also means that more children could be captured under the current provisions, which is why the changes that we are passing are so important.

The bill's changes for home education are very sensible because they address a fundamental inequity between homeschooled students currently and their school campus attending counterparts. I understand that if my son were homeschooled under the previous legislation he would not be able to finish year 12 as a homeschool student because he turns 18 in the January of the year he is due to finish year 12. Under these changes, students like Heath who are homeschooled will be able to finish. I have met with local homeschoolers in my community over a long period of time about this issue and they have explained why they are seeking this. In my case it is easy to understand, because I can put myself in their shoes and imagine what it would be like if my own child could not finish school if he was being home educated.

In the interests of equality with students who are attending school, these students who may have started school later than their peers have the right to finish their secondary schooling on the same schedule as their school-attending counterparts. According to the committee report, that is what this change achieves. Make no mistake: this is absolutely monumental for the families affected by this change—and those families will grow in number every year.

I want to give a shout-out to the home education associations, such as the ICPA and free2homeschool, which do fantastic work advocating for their community. I note that they are seeking further amendments to better support their organisations and the way we regulate their children's education. I have had some fantastic meetings with many of the members, as has the shadow minister, the member for Bulimba. The amendments they have proposed are a continuation of the large body of work and review of homeschooling begun by our former Labor government. I note that the committee has recommended that further consideration be given to extending the age eligibility in home education by a further six months. I hope the minister is seriously considering this and listening to homeschoolers about what they want in this space.

I was delighted to attend the homeschool markets last Monday alongside the member for Jordan, their local member. It was fantastic to see these bright young people coming together and putting on stalls with some crafted things they had personally made just in time for Christmas. I got a gorgeous pair of icicle earrings. I was excited to see that, in addition to these stalls, there was strong representation there from TAFE Queensland. They are working very hard partnering with our homeschool associations and our homeschool students to engage with these students and offer them postschool options in a way that really addresses the importance of the homeschool sector. We need to make sure we are partnering with them and working with them. I thank all of the wonderful associations that provided their feedback.

In the time I have remaining I want to highlight the parts of the bill that pertain to P&Cs. I will start by thanking the great team at P&Cs Queensland: Scott, Clare, Arlene, Katrina, Karl, Erika and Peita. Scott and the entire committee do an amazing job at helping our P&Cs with all of their important work. As the shadow minister said, at a time when volunteer numbers are generally going down and a lot of groups are struggling, P&Cs Queensland are reporting that their numbers are heading up. I think that is a tribute to the work of P&Cs Queensland. It is a testament also to the dedication of Queensland parents and carers, who love their kids so much.

I take a moment to thank the P&Cs in my area as well as the P&Cs across Queensland. I know in my community we have had some schools including Corinda, Oxley and Jindalee that were impacted by floods to varying degrees. Other school P&Cs expressed that they would love to offer some financial support, but previously they were not able to do that. Under these changes the generous parents at Jamboree Heights, for example, could provide some financial assistance to their neighbours at Jindalee State School if that neighbouring campus was flooded more seriously. Also a school that has two campuses can now structure their P&Cs in such a way that they could have multiple P&Cs set up if they wished to ensure the parents of those particular campuses can meet face-to-face on the issues that impact their students. It recognises that some of these school campuses are vast distances apart. This is a commonsense change to help our P&Cs be responsive to community need.

In the time I have remaining I want to thank the many stakeholders who contributed to this bill: our teachers, hardworking public servants, parents, kindy teachers, principals and our unions to name just a few. I also want to congratulate the shadow minister, Di Farmer, on the power of work that she has done on this bill, which I think is recognised by both sides of the House, over such a long time. I am disappointed to see some of the amendments she mentioned were not included. I certainly

encourage the minister to keep working with stakeholders whom he has acknowledged in his speech who are seeking further changes, such as our homeschooling community.

As I said, I think it is fair to say that the lion's share of the ministerial work on this bill was done by our shadow minister. I did hold out great hopes that the current education minister would dedicate the free time this gave him to working overtime to secure a deal for our hardworking teachers who have been beavering away with their union for months to secure a fair and equitable deal that acknowledges the hard work they do for our kids day in and day out in our community. I ask the minister to please put this at the top of his to-do list. For the sake of our children, for the sake of our school communities and, of course, for the sake of our teachers we really need to get this sorted as soon as possible. At the end of the day this bill is about our young people, and ensuring our teachers have nation-leading wages and conditions is about our young people as well. They deserve nothing less.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (5.52 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, a bill that represents a clear and decisive step by the Crisafulli government to remove administrative barriers, increase access to learning and return valuable teaching time to our classrooms. Across Queensland and particularly in my electorate of Redcliffe teachers and school leaders have told me the same thing: they are drowning in red tape. Over the past decade layers of bureaucracy have crept into our education system—compliance forms, approvals and duplications—all eating away at the time teachers could spend with their students. This bill delivers relief, it delivers reform and it delivers on our government's promise to reduce red tape and restore trust and autonomy to our educators. These are educators like my beautiful eldest daughter and son-in-law, who are dedicated teachers at a local public high school. They tell me often of the increasing burden of compliance and red tape that takes away from their teaching roles and time spent with students.

In 2024 the former Labor government attempted to introduce, and then hastily amend, a version of this legislation. That process was deeply flawed. There was inadequate consultation and confusion amongst stakeholders, and the government received over 2,000 submissions in protest. It was clear that teachers, parents and education providers felt ignored. The Crisafulli government has taken a very different approach and we understand that the best outcomes for our children are achieved through partnership, not presumption. That is why we took the time to review each of those submissions and engaged in genuine consultation with key stakeholders across Queensland including principals, P&Cs, the home education sector and non-state school representatives. This collaborative process has ensured that the bill now before the House is thoughtful, balanced and ready to deliver meaningful outcomes.

This bill pursues three clear objectives: to reduce the regulatory burden on schools, parents and students by streamlining administrative processes and clarifying regulatory requirements; to support school student safety, implementing the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse around information sharing when students transfer between schools; and to improve the effectiveness of Queensland's education statutes by making minor and technical amendments that remove outdated or unclear provisions. This is practical reform built on consultation and guided by common sense. This bill also delivers a number of tangible changes that will make a real difference for educators in my community of Redcliffe from Clontarf, Humpybong, Kippa-Ring and Scarborough state schools to Redcliffe and Clontarf Beach state high schools, to Grace Lutheran Primary School and Woody Point and Redcliffe special schools.

This bill will help reduce their red tape by: streamlining student access to approved online services; extending home education eligibility; reducing administrative burden on principals by allowing them to delegate the notification of suspension to senior staff; simplifying enrolment transfer processes for students already enrolled at a Queensland special school—a welcome change for families of children with additional needs, which includes many in my electorate of Redcliffe.

It also supports P&C operations by enabling associations at multi-campus schools and allowing donations between P&Cs, especially in the event of natural disasters. I give a quick shout-out to Scarborough State School for being the 2024 Business Tuckshop of the Year Award winner.

The bill protects school communities by preventing individuals convicted of indictable offences from holding an executive P&C role and clarifies data-sharing positions between school principals, governing bodies and the Department of Education. This will ensure transparency and accountability. Finally, it improves access to eKindy by clarifying their eligibility based on distance and medical conditions, a crucial reform for rural and remote families across the state.

Beyond red-tape reduction this bill also strengthens student safety. The mandatory use of transfer notes will ensure vital information follows a student if they move between Queensland schools.

This reform implements a key recommendation from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, ensuring schools are better informed and better equipped to support the wellbeing of every child. For families in Redcliffe where students often do transition between the state and non-state systems, this is about continuity, safety and care. It means no student will fall through the cracks when they change school. The Crisafulli government will remove this condition, strengthening supervision and safeguarding children in early childhood education care settings. This bill also addresses the unique Queensland provision in childhood education, the rest period condition, which allows reduced educator-to-child ratios during rest times. Queensland is lagging in this respect and is the only jurisdiction without such an arrangement.

Additionally, from 1 January 2026 Catholic Education Limited will assume responsibilities currently held by the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. This modernises governance and reflects the evolving structure of Catholic education across the state. I want to give a shout-out to Southern Cross Catholic College, a P-12 school in my electorate that will benefit from these changes.

Finally, this bill brings forward the commencement of the Reportable Conduct Scheme under the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024 to 1 July 2026, ensuring all sectors are covered earlier and that child safety reforms take effect sooner. This bill complements the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement reached on 24 March 2025 between the Crisafulli government and the Australian government. Under that agreement, Queensland will receive an estimated \$2.8 billion in additional Commonwealth funding for our state schools over the next decade. The Crisafulli government remains steadfast in its commitment to empower principals, teachers and school communities, and we know that those closest to the students are best placed to decide how to deliver improved educational outcomes.

In closing, I want to congratulate two schools in my electorate celebrating significant milestones this month. Clontarf Beach State School is turning 75 and Scarborough State School the big 100. Happy centenary, Scarborough State School! I look forward to celebrating with its school community, past and present students and staff. I also want to put on the record my thanks to the Minister for Education, Mr Langbroek, for his recent visits to Redcliffe to visit Humpybong State School, my old primary school, to announce the permanent, ongoing Behaviour Boost funding—congratulations to Humpybong for its great results with this funding—and also for visiting the two special schools, Woody Point and Redcliffe. We were delighted to officially open together the Woody Point education hub, and at Redcliffe Special School the minister and I enjoyed seeing students gardening and cooking, completing certificates in agriculture and hospitality respectively. Thank you to the staff of these two special schools for their outstanding creativity and dedication.

For far too long teachers have been asked to do more with less—less time, less flexibility and less support. This bill is about giving time and trust back. It cuts through red tape, it strengthens safety, it modernises the system for today's challenges and, most importantly, it places confidence back in our schools and our communities, including in Redcliffe, where education is at the heart of our local identity. This bill represents the next step in building a stronger, fairer and more responsive education system—one that works with our teachers, for our students and for Queensland's future. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.02 pm): I rise to speak in relation to the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025. At the outset it is important to acknowledge that this bill closely mirrors the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill previously introduced by the former Labor government which lapsed upon the dissolution of the 57th Parliament. Indeed, most of the amendments now before us were included in that earlier version. However, there are some notable differences. Several provisions dealing with behaviour management and enhanced regulation of the homeschooling sector, originally part of the lapsed bill, are absent from the current version. Their omission raises questions about the government's priorities, particularly when issues of behaviour management and home education remain live topics in the Queensland education system.

The bill proposes a range of significant changes to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. These include streamlining special school transfers, removing the requirement for students already enrolled at one special school to undergo a fresh assessment before transferring to another; mandatory transfer notes in that, in direct response to the 2017 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, principals will now be required to obtain transfer notes within 90 days of enrolment; extension of home education registration eligibility, increasing the age threshold for home education registration from 17 to 18 years by the end of 2025; online service access and student data, creating a framework to allow Department of Education employees to record, use and disclose student information relevant to approved online services; disaster recovery support, permitting the donation of physical materials, not just money, between parents and citizens' associations and schools following natural

disasters; allowing for multiple-campus P&Cs, allowing schools with multiple campuses to establish individual P&C associations; P&C executive eligibility, preventing individuals convicted of indictable offences from serving on P&C executive committees; and delegation of suspension communications, enabling principals to delegate the communication of suspensions to authorised staff such as deputy principals or heads of department. Collectively, these measures are designed to modernise Queensland's education legislation, improve access and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.

The changes around special school transfers and mandatory transfer notes are particularly significant. They will help ensure schools are equipped with relevant information to support vulnerable or at-risk students. However, these provisions must be implemented with utmost sensitivity and respect for privacy. Transfer notes, for example, can contain deeply personal information. It is critical that they are handled in a way that protects confidentiality and avoids any risk of stigma or discrimination.

The minister, in introducing this bill, referenced the term 'reduce' no fewer than 15 times, particularly in the context of reducing administrative burdens for principals, teachers, parents and students. Despite this rhetoric, there is no clear explanation of how these measures align with the minister's charter letter KPI of achieving a 25 per cent reduction in red tape. During the public briefing, opposition members confirmed with the department that no specific metrics exist—nor are there any planned—to measure how the proposed amendments will contribute to that 25 per cent target. Furthermore, the baseline from which this 25 per cent reduction is to be measured has not been established.

In truth, the bill introduces no new red-tape-reduction initiatives. However, it continues the non-legislative reforms previously identified by the former Labor government. While there is much rhetoric, there remains little tangible progress in delivering genuine reform. Meanwhile, teachers across Queensland continue to struggle under the weight of increasing workloads, red tape and occupational violence—issues that Premier Crisafulli promised to fix but which are nowhere to be found in this bill. Just a few weeks ago more than 50,000 Queensland teachers went on strike for the first time in 16 years to say that this government is not doing enough to support them. That should have been a wake-up call. Instead, the government has presented a bill that ignores the daily realities teachers face in classrooms across this state.

One of the most significant aspects of this bill is the streamlining of student access to online services. In today's digital age, it is essential that students can seamlessly access modern educational tools. This bill supports that goal, but it also raises serious concerns about data privacy and cybersecurity. Both the Queensland Teachers' Union and the Independent Education Union of Australia have underscored the need for stringent protections around student data. They have called for clear limits on the types of data shared; strict rules around data storage, duration, purpose and access; and civil penalties for online service providers whose actions cause harm. The Office of the Information Commissioner has recognised the department's good intentions but stressed the importance of stronger safeguards, including privacy-by-design principles and privacy impact assessments. Similarly, PeakCare Queensland supports the intent of these reforms but recommends the department's annual report include updates on data protections, breaches and their management.

The Queensland Law Society has also raised concerns, noting that privacy is just one issue among many. The terms and conditions of online platforms often include liability waivers and provisions about intellectual property rights. The bill does not address these issues, nor does it clarify student ownership of creative works or coding matters that are increasingly relevant to older students. These are legitimate concerns and deserve serious attention.

The bill clarifies eligibility for eKindy—Queensland's distance education program for kindy-aged children—ensuring those who are geographically isolated or medically unable to attend in person are not excluded. This is a commendable, inclusive reform that keeps early education accessible to all Queensland children, regardless of their circumstances.

Alongside the headline reforms, the bill also contains a number of minor and technical amendments to improve the operational effectiveness of Queensland's education legislation. These may not attract much attention, but they are nonetheless important for ensuring a responsive and modern system. While there is broad stakeholder support for the objectives of this bill, deep concerns around implementation and accountability remain. The Queensland Teachers' Union and the Independent Education Union support the intent of data-sharing reforms but question whether the safeguards are adequate. The Office of the Information Commissioner has called for stronger protections and oversight. The Queensland Law Society has warned that intellectual property rights and liability issues are being overlooked. PeakCare Queensland has urged the government to improve

transparency through annual reporting. These concerns cannot be brushed aside. They go to the heart of protecting students, staff and school communities.

The Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025 represents a step forward in modernising Queensland's education system. It seeks to reduce red tape, streamline digital access, improve administrative practices and strengthen student protections. Labor supports this bill because, quite frankly, the minister has copied our work. He has taken the bill that lapsed under the former government, made a few minor changes and delivered none of his own KPIs. We know this Premier has a habit of breaking promises but, in this case, his bad habit means Queensland's teachers and students are collateral damage.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.12 pm): This bill is about making a real difference in the lives of Queensland children, their families and our hardworking teachers. It is about keeping children safe, supporting families to make the best choices for their child's learning and freeing teachers to do what they do best—teach. The classroom should be the safest place a child can be, a place to learn, grow and to find purpose, not fear. For too long, Labor failed to uphold that most basic responsibility—keeping our children safe. Under Labor, the blue card system broke down. Information between agencies was slow, incomplete and sometimes never shared at all—and the human cost of this? Dangerous and predatory individuals were left in positions of trust because bureaucracy moved slower than justice.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse delivered its final recommendations in 2017. In 2017, those recommendations were delivered. Those recommendations made it clear: governments right across the country must strengthen information sharing; mandate the reporting of misconduct; and embed child safe standards across all sectors, especially education—but guess what? In Queensland, those recommendations sat on Labor ministers' desks for years gathering dust. In fact, in 2024—seven years later—they were still not in force. That is how long Labor waited to act. That is how long Queensland children were left in a system that the royal commission had clearly identified as not safe. I sat here and I listened to the shadow opposition spokesperson complain about the minister taking seven months for consultation. We have done in seven months what Labor failed to do in seven years when it comes to a reportable conduct scheme to keep our children safe from predators.

On behalf of my Currumbin community I raised these failures year after year, calling on the then Labor government to take immediate action to protect our children. In 2021, I stood here and spoke about a young woman who was sexually assaulted by a teacher at her school. The school knew what had happened. They knew his behaviour was wrong, they should have reported him but they did not. This was a man with a blue card, a man the system continued to keep safe because Labor failed to implement the reportable conduct scheme. Again, in 2022, I called out Labor's inaction and warned that nothing is more important than protecting our children. Then, in 2023, after our community was horrifically let down by one of the worst prolific paedophiles our state has ever seen being able to move from New South Wales to Queensland to continue to work in childcare centres in my community and abuse children because Labor failed to implement a reportable conduct scheme, I stood up again and said—

Currumbin parents want to know that their children will be safe when they drop them off at a childcare centre. Childcare centres and childcare educators want to know that the system will do its job and catch predators. We see this government act swiftly on matters of its own interests. Why can it not act swiftly to fix the blue card system and protect our children?

I said that back in 2023. If Labor had established the reportable conduct scheme when the royal commission called for it back in 2017, the horror this man inflicted on Queensland children and on families in my Currumbin community may not have happened. It could have been prevented.

In 2024, I again gave a voice to the families in my community who paid the most horrific price while Labor sat on its hands. Even then, Labor was not going to put the scheme—which would require organisations working with children to have systems in place to prevent child sex offences and misconduct, the ill-treatment and neglect of children, physical violence and the emotional and psychological harm of children and to notify the QFCC of any concerns of allegations for investigations—in force for all reputable organisations until July 2027, nearly 10 years after the royal commission handed down their findings and sounded the alarm. This government will not wait a decade to protect our children. We are bringing the start date of the reportable conduct scheme forward to 1 July next year because community safety cannot wait. We will not wait 10 years like Labor did.

Under our amendments to the Child Safe Organisations Act, education services will be required to comply with the reportable conduct scheme that was recommended back in 2017 from 1 July. This

will ensure allegations of child abuse or misconduct are reported, investigated and acted upon—not buried—because every child deserves protection and every parent deserves trust in the system. Parents deserve to know that when they drop their children off at a childcare centre, their children will be safe. Those childcare centre operators deserve to know that they have the protection of a reportable conduct scheme that will ensure predators are caught.

Our government will not sit on our hands and wait—unlike the Labor government who failed to act for 10 years. But protecting children from harm is only one part of this bill. The other part is preventing harm before it happens by keeping young Queenslanders in school, giving them purpose and helping them stay on the right path. We know one of the best ways to prevent crime is to intervene early and one of the best ways we can do that is by keeping kids engaged with education. When a young person disengages from school, they can lose the structure, support and guidance that helps them make the right choices. We also know that when a young person stays in school they have mentors, pathways and a sense of purpose. They are far less likely to engage in antisocial behaviour or come into contact with our criminal justice system. This bill delivers practical changes that support these outcomes, because the best way to improve education and prevent disengagement is to let teachers teach.

For too long, students, parents and teachers have been caught in a system that requires more from them but delivers less—a system weighed down by duplication, delay and red tape. Too often, parents face unnecessary forms, teachers are tied up in duplicated approvals processes and principals are left managing red tape instead of focusing on their school community. This bill helps to turn that around. It cuts red tape by streamlining how students access approved online services, allowing students to access approved resources faster; giving principals the flexibility to delegate routine notifications, ensuring decisions are made quickly, communication is clear and teachers can get back to supporting their students faster; and simplifying transfers for students already enrolled in Queensland special schools, reducing uncertainty for families and allowing teachers to focus on continuity of learning for those children who need it most.

When it comes to our hardworking P&Cs, we are supporting them by updating the rules for P&Cs, enabling donations between campuses in the event of natural disasters. We are also promoting safer P&C committees by ensuring people convicted of an indictable offence are prevented from holding an executive committee role on P&Cs, holding those organisations to the highest standards. We are committed to making those systems work efficiently and effectively because when they do everyone benefits. Teachers have more time to focus on their students, parents can spend less time on forms and more time supporting their child's learning, and schools can get back to doing what they do best: educating the next generation of Queenslanders.

These reforms clear away the red tape that has slowed our schools for too long. They make it easier for teachers to teach, for parents to engage and for principals to lead schools focused on student outcomes. This bill also improves access to learning for Queensland children who cannot always attend a traditional classroom. It ensures more Queensland children, no matter where they live or what challenges they face, can access the education that suits them best by extending home education eligibility to 18 years of age, recognising that every student's learning journey is different. For some young people, the traditional classroom just does not fit and families need flexibility to support learning that works for their child. We are also doing this in the youth justice space through youth justice schools and crime prevention schools, allowing youths who just do not fit into mainstream schooling the opportunity to have a pathway into education, a pathway out of crime and a pathway of hope.

Unlike Labor, we have listened to those families. The Crisafulli government has reviewed every submission, met with key stakeholders and acted to give parents the choice and certainty they deserve while ensuring the right safeguards are in place to protect every child's wellbeing. After a decade of delay and inaction under Labor, finally Queenslanders have a government that delivers for them. We have taken a recommendation that gathered dust on the desk of the Labor minister for seven years, since 2017. We are bringing it forward and implementing it for the protection and safety of Queensland children. In just 12 months we are delivering for Queenslanders what the state Labor government failed to deliver in a decade.

Interruption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Deputy Speaker's Ruling, Point of Order



Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Members, at the conclusion of his adjournment speech on 15 October 2025, the member for Maiwar raised a point of order in the following terms—

Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I make the point that the member for Callide has been repeatedly and vocally interjecting when he is not in his seat.

I responded that it was not a point of order, directed the member to resume his seat and called the next speaker. Upon reflection and consideration of the record, it appears that the point of order by the member for Maiwar may have been valid. I remind all members of the House that it is against standing orders for a member to speak or interject unless they are in their own seat.

EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3240, on motion of Mr Langbroek—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Dr O'SHEA (South Brisbane—ALP) (6.23 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025. One of the most important gifts we can give our children is the opportunity to access a good education where their natural abilities are encouraged to grow and flourish. A good education can be life-changing and this best occurs in an environment suited to the individual child, whether that is through traditional schooling or home education. We should be very proud of our education system in Queensland, whether it is the state, Catholic, independent or home education sector. My three sons were privileged to attend Brisbane State High School in my electorate of South Brisbane.

In addressing this education bill, I take the opportunity to recognise and thank all of our teachers and the support and administration staff who provide such an important learning environment for our children. I particularly pay tribute to our hardworking teachers, who not only have a heavy workload but also are often subjected to verbal and physical abuse from students or their parents. That is not acceptable in any workplace and should not be tolerated in our schools. Our teachers should be supported and celebrated for their integral role in developing the minds and character of our future generations.

As a new member of parliament, one of my most pleasant roles has been meeting with the inspirational principals in the schools in my electorate, attending parent and citizen meetings with the volunteers who work so hard to fundraise and support their schools as well as having the opportunity to talk with our school students at their schools or when they visit this House. I am always impressed by their level of knowledge about our state legislative body and how engaged they are with the democratic process.

I make special mention of the role of school libraries in our children's lives. These are not only places that can stimulate a lifelong love of reading in our children; for many children the calm and peaceful environment of the school library often serves as an essential respite from the demands of a long school day. Our school libraries play a vital role in the daily life of many of our students. I hope that, with the increasing reliance on online resources, their importance is recognised and school libraries are supported and maintained.

In addressing this bill, I acknowledge the work of the Education, Arts and Communities 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 proposes to amend the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and other legislation to reduce the regulatory burden on schools, parents and students in a range of areas.

An important amendment contained in this bill extends the age eligibility of students in home education. I note that these provisions attracted the majority of submissions to the inquiry. Under the current legislation, students are only eligible to be registered for home education until the end of the year in which they turn 17. This bill proposes extending registration for a further 12 months, to the end of the year in which the student turns 18, to bring home educated students in line with their peers who attend state and non-state schools. The bill also extends the eligibility for student related financial supports, educational resources, travel and participation in sporting competitions in line with this new timeframe to ensure that all students have the same opportunities to support their development.

A number of submitters advocated a further extension of the registration period beyond 18 years in cases where the students may have had a delayed start to their education, repeated a year of schooling or have special circumstances or learning requirements. In response to this, the committee recommended further consideration around the extension of the age eligibility of students in home education by another six months, to the end of the year in which the student turns 18 years and six months.

Another important amendment in this bill relates to the timely and effective sharing of relevant student information between schools. Currently, when a student moves between state and non-state schools, the student, the parent or the principal of the new school can request a student transfer note from the former school. This transfer note includes relevant information about the student's educational performance, any support provided, behaviour and attendance as well as any medical issues. In 2017, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse made a number of recommendations regarding strengthening information-sharing arrangements for the safety and welfare of children. Those recommendations included the transfer of a student's relevant information when they started a new school to assist the new school in meeting the student's safety and wellbeing needs as well as those of the other students in the school. Under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, the provision of transfer notes is currently optional. This bill proposes to make transfer notes mandatory, requiring the principal of a state or non-state school to request a transfer note within 90 days of a student enrolling at their school. Once requested, the transfer note will be required to be provided to the new school within 10 school days.

Although deemed outside the scope of this bill, the committee acknowledged the issues raised by stakeholders in relation to school disciplinary absences, SDAs. These included requests for a comprehensive review of SDAs, the consideration of holistic models of supports in schools and proposals that suspensions and exclusions be implemented strictly as a last resort, safeguarding the educational rights and wellbeing of Queensland students, particularly those with disabilities. I support the amendments contained in this bill and I support the passage of the bill.

Debate, on motion of Dr O'Shea, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF HINCHINBROOK

Seat Declared Vacant



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.30 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the seat in this House for the electoral district of Hinchinbrook has become and is now vacant by reason of the resignation of Mr Nick Dametto on 14 October 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3242, on motion of Mr Langbroek—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Mr JAMES (Mulgrave—LNP) (7.31 pm): I stand before you to speak in favour of the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025. We all know that our teachers and school administrators are being pushed to the limit by the cumbersome regulations they are currently forced to endure. I have visited many schools in the seat of Mulgrave and I know firsthand that teachers and school administrators are under serious pressure. Hopefully, this bill will assist in relieving this pressure.

The Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2005 introduced into the Queensland parliament aims to reduce red tape and streamline administrative processes within the education system. The bill focuses on simplifying enrolment procedures, particularly for students transferring between special schools, and improving access to approved online learning services. It also addresses recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse regarding information sharing between schools during student transfers.

Some key aspects of this bill include that we are simplifying regulations to ease the burdens. The bill aims to make processes more efficient for schools, parents and students, by reducing administrative tasks and clarifying regulatory requirements.

We aim to simplify the enrolment process. Principals will be able to officially transfer students between special schools, minimising delays and facilitating smoother transitions. The bill aims to improve digital learning access by clarifying the use of approved online services and simplifying resource access for students. The bill aims to extend home education registration eligibility to 31 December of the year a student turns 18. The Crisafulli government will ensure it is easier for schools to share information. The bill implements a recommendation from the royal commission related to information sharing between schools when students transfer.

The government will also support school P&Cs by allowing schools to have separate P&C associations where there are multiple campuses. This will allow P&Cs to move donations between those groups under specific circumstances.

The Crisafulli government is focused on giving all children a great start, encouraging young people in learning, creating safe and inclusive workplaces and investing in communities for a stronger Queensland. This government has been clear on the need to ensure that our principals, teachers and school communities are empowered to deliver improved educational outcomes for Queensland children. This includes identifying opportunities to reduce the administrative burden on teachers to allow them more time to focus on classroom teaching and ensure that schools are adequately resourced and authorised to maintained strong behavioural standards in Queensland schools.

Queensland state schools use various third-party online services to aid curriculum delivery, assessments, class collaboration, school operations and communications with parents. These services may require students' personal information for account registration and access such as names, birth dates, achievement data, email addresses and school data. Parents or students must provide consent for the use of personal information for each service. However, the current system has become overly burdensome for schools, teachers and parents.

Amendments to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, or E(GP)A, in the bill enable personal information about a student that is relevant to the set-up and use of online services to be recorded, used and disclosed by a Public Service employee of the department to an online service that has been approved by the chief executive. Personal information will not include sensitive information.

As I stated earlier, we are striving to make everything less cumbersome all round. The reforms in the bill will reduce the administrative burden on state schools, parents and students while balancing the importance of protecting student information. The proposed approved online services reforms will not commence for up to 12 months after the passage of the bill to ensure appropriate guidance and communication materials are in place prior to the implementation.

Another major achievement of this bill is in relation to home education eligibility. Improving access to educational choices for parents and students is a pillar of Queensland's education legislation. Students can access education through state schools, non-state schools, distance education and home education. Many students move between modes and sectors of education throughout their learning journey. The Crisafulli government supports parents in their choices about the best education pathways for their children. In addition, removing this barrier to home education registration for students who wish to continue to be registered in the year in which they turn 18 years of age will support parents and students by maintaining eligibility for student related financial supports and educational resources.

This bill will also enable principals to delegate the notification of suspension decisions. Principals have significant demands on their time and the current regulation does not allow a state school principal to delegate the telling of a suspension decision. Principals will still be the decision-maker but can delegate the message transfer.

Another provision of this bill reduces the regulatory burden on the principals of special schools, parents and students by streamlining the requirements related to enrolment transfers between special schools. The current system requires the special school student to undertake a new assessment each time they transfer. This is a crazy regulatory burden and unnecessary red tape on our principals and creates uncertainty for the student and their parents while they wait for enrolment decisions.

The part of the bill that I am most happy about is the way that it supports our hardworking volunteers in P&C groups. We all know that P&Cs work in partnership with their school principal and the community to promote the interests of the school and facilitate its development and further improvements to achieve the best possible outcome for students.

All the P&Cs I have visited work very hard to make their schools the best they can. This bill will support P&Cs in three specific ways to make their burden easier. The bill provides that prescribed schools and multiple campuses may establish a P&C at each campus. Secondly, it will empower P&Cs to move donations and resources between those groups under specific circumstances, especially when responding to local needs or emergencies like natural disasters, a reality we all know too well in Far North Queensland. Thirdly, this bill also supports the integrity of a P&C executive membership by precluding a person who has been convicted of an indictable offence from holding an executive membership role in a P&C, such as president or treasurer. All of these measures will relieve the regulatory burden on our schools and let them focus more time on their major application, which is helping our kids learn.

This bill is a robust first step in cutting red tape for teachers and principals, supporting students and school safety and delivering on the Crisafulli government's election commitments regarding education. It ensures that all Queensland children and young people, no matter where they live—in the city, the bush or remote communities—have access to a high-quality education system from now and into the future. These reforms underpin our commitment to equity, excellence and the opportunity for every child and every school community across Queensland. I support the bill.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.41 pm): I rise to give a contribution on the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. I do so as a former high school teacher—not the greatest high school teacher; I recognise there are far better high school teachers in this state. It is something I am very passionate about because I know that education is a transformational experience. It was transformational in my life but especially transformational in the lives of my mother and father, who were the first in their families to go on to higher education. That really transformed the trajectory of my entire family, from country working-class people to something of a different vision. I recognise that that is a huge thing. In that way, we should always look to improve our education.

I want to speak especially to the struggle we have in Logan, a fast-growing area. I have for the last two years represented the fastest growing area in the state. I know that the member for Coomera says he is competitive on this, but he now admits that the state seat of Logan and the state seat of Jordan are the fastest growing areas, with lots of families coming in that want great educational services. That is why the member for Jordan and I are pushing for more services in our areas.

I want to particularly speak of the special school and the high school I am so proud of that we have put in place in Logan Reserve. I recognise that the minister came out to Logan Reserve. He came to the land that we had purchased, that we had cleared and, of course, that we had planned. We put in place the plans to build the special school before the election, including all of the detail about where the two schools would be located, where the sporting fields would be and what buildings would be where—it was very much a part of the plan. I want to table these documents because they show that we had seen that the growth was there in Logan and were putting in place both the special school and the high school, building upon Corymbia Primary School.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Concept Master Plan'.

Of course, the minister came out to open that great Labor project, a really special school. It was there where I urged him and said, 'Don't give up on our plans for the Logan Reserve school on Derby Road,' because it is so important for that growing area and it is connected to one of the largest high schools in Queensland. Those are the areas that we need to back and I will continue to fight for my area.

I will not have the minister come out and say we did not put plans in place for this, because he is literally submitting other people's homework. He is taking our plans for the special school and the state high school and putting them in. We know that if any student put in another person's homework we would be very angry about that. The education minister should recognise that, in doing this, he is actually doing a Labor project that we planned—we bought the land, we cleared the land and we made the plans.

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr POWER: You are absolutely right. This is taxpayers' money. However, it is so vital that in growing areas like Logan we spend back on these vital services.

I want to recognise the P&Cs of Logan. We want to make sure that they do a great job, that they are connected and that their voices are heard because we know parents are experiencing what their parents experienced—matters such as the way we have been able to talk about social media and whether under-16-year-olds should have access to that. That came from those conversations when

talking to people at P&C meetings and connect our teaching profession with others about what is going on. These things are really important.

I also want to talk about another matter of growth in our area—that is, the high school in Everleigh which serves the whole Greenbank area. I know that the member for Jordan is passionate about this as well. We want to see a new high school built on the site that was planned and, I want to recognise, purchased under this government. We want to see a timeline put forward for the high school in Everleigh—both the Covella estate and the Everleigh estate. I also want to recognise the entire Greenbank area plus New Beith. Residents have expectations that a high school will be delivered for this area. I will not rest. I will put pressure on this government to deliver the high school—again, where we chose the site and planned the site. I recognise that the new government, under the new minister, bought the site just as we planned. These are important things. I just do not want the minister to say there was no planning in the area beforehand because he knows that is not the full story; that is not true. If he is going to say that, he needs to make new decisions. He needs to build new schools that were not part of Labor's plans, part of Labor's homework.

I also want to recognise the important measure of home education, especially giving support for those who are over 17. I want to recognise the great advocates for home education who are here in the gallery of the parliament today. We did not get it right last time around and passionate voices came up and said, 'You did not get it right.' I want to especially recognise former minister, Di Farmer, the member for Bulimba. I was one of the people who talked to her all the time behind the scenes. Passionate and articulate voices came up and said, 'This is why you did not get it right. There is one good thing here—the 17 or 18—but you did not get all of this right.' The then minister had the guts to say, 'I am presenting something to the parliament that is not perfect and good people have come and made good arguments.' That is what good governance is about. I think former minister Farmer needs enormous recognition for that.

I heard her speak today so passionately. I know that she went up to speak to Patricia Fitzgerald later. That is what we should do. If we hear from the department that there are certain issues—that this is where we should go, that this is the problem; I know passionate homeschoolers recognise there are some who are dropping out of the system—we need to find ways to deal with that. We were applying too broad a brush to passionate people who wanted to see their kids get the education they wanted, and they wanted to have great connection to curriculum and ideas and they wanted to do it in a way that was right for their family.

This is an evolving space, but you will not achieve without listening to people and admitting sometimes that you did not always get it right. This is something I am so passionate about, because when I heard about it I went to the committee meetings in the last parliament and I got the representation. I recognised that we needed to do more. That is why I have enormous respect for former minister Farmer. I know there are ministers—and I see some sitting on the front bench—who, if they got something wrong—as we saw in the recent debate on the coroners bill; they got a lot wrong—did not have the guts to say, 'Okay, we have listened to people who came to speak to committees. We have considered the submissions. We can change it. We can adapt.'

It is also to the credit of those who made those representations that people were listened to. This is good governance. This is why this bill fits better, and that is why we need to listen. I know that we will not always get it right. I know that there will be pressure from those who have lived a different experience from someone who was a high school teacher. I appreciate that. I want more of that. I want to listen to people who have lived a different experience from me as a teacher at a regular high school. That is why I think there are some good things in this bill.

I also do not think we should hand in the homework of others. We should recognise that growing areas need support. I have spoken before in this place about how the previous LNP government did not build one new classroom in Logan. Certainly there were no new schools built, but no new classrooms were built either. The former Labor government built the Yarrabilba State Secondary College, the South Rock primary school and the Yarrabilba primary school. We bought the site for the new Derby Road, Chambers Flat school. We planned and got the site ready in Everleigh for the Greenbank community. We built new centres in—

Mr Lister: You closed a few schools in my electorate, Linus—three of them. Thank you!

Mr POWER: Sorry, were you interrupting? We did an enormous amount in 10 years—he is right. Remember, in their three years plus the four years that they were budgeting they did nothing. We built the new office centre in Jimboomba. I cannot get through it all because we had so much—

(Time expired)



Mr LEE (Hervey Bay—LNP) (7.51 pm): I rise to speak to the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025. This amendment bill strengthens the effective regulation of education in Queensland, and I commend the Minister for Education and the Education, Arts and Communities Committee who diligently prepared the bill before this House. The Crisafulli government is committed to reducing Labor's monumental red tape and regulatory burden on our hardworking Queensland educators.

Our education system is the bedrock of a civil society and can be traced back to the ancient Egyptians and Greeks. Education has given us mathematicians, physicists, scientists, explorers, artists, physicians, philosophers and poets. Queensland's first school opened in 1826 with 16 students, the children of soldiers and convicts from the first settlement in Moreton Bay. In my electorate of Hervey Bay, the first public primary school opened in 1884 at Pialba followed by a private school in 1888. Hervey Bay now has five private schools and eight public schools, including Hervey Bay Special School. Currently, there are at least 9,000 primary and secondary students enrolled in public and private schools in Hervey Bay.

The Minister for Education in his second reading speech and others have comprehensively spoken to the bill's many reforms, including the reportable conduct scheme under the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024 and other technical amendments. I now turn to approved online services. At any one time our state schools can be using hundreds of online third-party technology solutions for curriculum delivery, assessments, publishing, management operations and communications with parents. Section 426 of the Education (General Provisions) Act currently requires parental consent for each online service that requires information about a student. The existing consent process is incredibly burdensome, compounded by the dramatic increase in the use of online services. There is also a risk of security breaches related to the variability of online service privacy and security protections.

The Department of Education has reported that 349 schools use the Mathletics service, with some larger schools having up to 1,000 software licences. Clause 37 of the bill provides for a modern framework that removes individual consent for each online service. The chief executive officer will approve an online service that requires a disclosure, a recording or use of personal information about a state school student pursuant to the Information Privacy Act 2009 and the national requirements of the Safer Technologies 4 Schools framework. However, in circumstances where online services require sensitive information about a student or are not approved online services, parental or student consent is still required in accordance with a school's obtaining and managing student and individual consent procedures.

Many students in my Hervey Bay electorate are homeschooled. According to a 2024 Department of Education report, there were over 11,000 students registered for home education in Queensland. This represented a 163 per cent increase in home education registrations over the previous five years. The current legislation provides that a student can only be registered until 31 December in the year in which they turn 17 years of age. Clauses 9 and 10 of the bill will extend the age eligibility by one year to 31 December in the year the student turns 18. This amendment aligns the age eligibility for homeschooling registration with students who attend state or non-state schools.

This bill enables principals also to delegate the notification of suspension decisions. Clauses 12 to 14 of the bill authorise a principal to delegate the notification of a suspension decision to another of the school's senior staff members, including a deputy principal. It is important to note that the principal is still responsible for making a suspension decision. It is the authority to notify that can be delegated to a senior staff member. These amendments will reduce the workload burden on our hardworking school principals.

Our Hervey Bay Special School does a fantastic job in educating our children. I recently attended this outstanding school, and I want to congratulate the principal, Janet Ong, and her dedicated staff for their compassion and professionalism in a challenging field of education. This bill will assist in expediting special school enrolments. Clause 32 will provide that where a student has a disability and the special school is able to cater for the educational needs of the student the principal must enrol the student.

P&C associations are the backbone of our schools. Clause 31 of this bill will insert a new part 11—special provisions for campus associations. It will enable regional state schools with multiple campuses to establish separate P&Cs for each campus. The Minister for Education in his 14 March 2025 introductory speech said—

The proposed reform empowers P&Cs, should they wish, to actively support one another following natural disasters to help fellow school communities and support students.

The bill will allow P&C associations to assist with finances, resources or services to other school communities adversely affected by an event such as a deliberate act, accident or natural disaster. Clauses 28 and 29 of the bill preclude a person convicted of an indictable offence, other than a spent conviction, from being a member of a P&C association executive committee or subcommittee, unless approved by the minister.

I now turn to the collection of information from non-state schools. This bill will clarify the roles and responsibilities for non-state schools and reduce the regulatory burden on principals and governance boards when information is requested by the chief executive officer of the Department of Education. The existing legislation provides for transfer notes to be optional. This bill will provide for the Queensland legislation to align with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and make transfer notes a mandatory requirement. This bill requires a principal of a state or non-state school to request a transfer note within 90 days of the student's enrolment in the school. It is set at 90 days rather than 90 school days to avoid time delays such as school holidays. In respect of transfer notes, the transfer note reforms will not commence until up to 12 months after the passage of this bill.

In relation to eKindy, this bill proposes to clarify the distance and medical eligibility criteria for eKindy. The tyranny of distance and medical eligibility is currently precluding persons from registering a child in eKindy. Clause 35 of this bill will change the distance criterion so that a child is eligible if their home is more than 16 kilometres from centre-based care delivering an approved kindergarten program. The bill will also change medical eligibility, making eKindy available to a child who misses 10 weeks cumulatively throughout the year due to a health condition.

In closing, the Crisafulli government is taking a calm and methodical approach to legislative reform of the Education Act. This comes after a decade of a woke and ideological left-leaning Labor government who loved the Kool-Aid of post-modernist theory. I commend the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.59 pm): I rise to contribute to the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025. The bill seeks to amend the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 with the objective of reducing the regulatory burden and red tape on schools, parents and students.

We know that our Queensland teachers are bearing the brunt of increasing workloads, red tape and occupational violence in our schools, as well as the parental expectations that are being placed on them. In term 2 of every year since I became the member for Jordan I have met individually with each of my school principals, not only in the public school system but also in our independent schools. They are really valuable discussions. We spend a lot of time together and I find out a lot about what is happening in each of my schools. This is the first year in a long time that even my most enthusiastic school principals have told me just how challenging the school environment is at this time. We probably did not need to know that from our principals. We have heard it and seen it from the more than 50,000 teachers who went on strike for the first time in 16 years to say that they need more support.

The LNP government and the education minister promised they would fix this by reducing red tape by 25 per cent. Despite this, we hoped there would be more—12 months in of this government, we thought there would be more in terms of red-tape relief that they so desperately needed. Instead, the presented bill really is nothing but a copy of Labor's homework. They have made a couple of minor changes, hoping the teachers would not notice and crossing their fingers for a passing grade.

We appreciate the vote of confidence from the minister in the work of the former Labor government—we really do. This bill proposes several changes adopted from the previous Labor bill. However, I want to particularly focus on the proposed amendments to home education in Queensland. Homeschooling is a growing part of Queensland's education mix, and we have seen an increased uptake by families who are providing children with an alternative education pathway to the more mainstream schooling environments. The Department of Education reported that from 2019 to 2023 there had been a 260 per cent increase in students enrolled through home education, underlining the importance that the legislation be amended to better reflect this increasingly more common reality.

Only this week, along with the assistant shadow minister for education, the member for Mount Ommaney, I attended the homeschool market day in Springfield, where homeschooled children and young people from across South-East Queensland gather to sell their handmade arts and crafts. It is more than just a stall. The students are learning valuable lessons around entrepreneurship, business, marketing, organisation, responsibility and, most importantly, confidence in themselves.

This yearly event is organised by the dynamic Bec Mullen—no relation—who runs the Greater Springfield Home Schoolers group. I have been attending this event for a number of years. As an MP,

I have taken the time to engage with my homeschooling community to better understand the decisions that families make when it comes to homeschooling their children and the issues they face. I know from many families that the decision to homeschool does not feel like a choice but a necessity for their child's academic growth, their wellbeing and their happiness. As a parent myself, I know that that is what I want for my children and I respect the decisions that families make for theirs.

What I have seen and I really want to acknowledge is that mothers are predominantly bearing the responsibility of homeschooling their children. Many give up successful careers to do this. I want to recognise that. In particular, I want to acknowledge Amanda and Patricia from free2homeschool, who are here this evening. These are amazing women. They are incredible mothers and they are such passionate advocates for homeschooling families across our state. I am so pleased that they are here tonight.

The significant growth in homeschooling, especially following COVID-19, was the reason that our then government embarked on a review of homeschooling provisions. I want to echo the words of the member for Logan, who said, 'Yes, I don't think we got it right at the time when we put out some initial proposals.' I had a meeting with a number of my homeschooling families. I was very grateful that department representatives came out to my electorate for a meeting with many of the families to explain some of the measures that were being proposed. Those discussions were so valuable for the department. What I think became very evident was that the Home Education Unit within the department was simply not keeping up with the growth and the demands of this education option.

I acknowledge the former education minister, the member for Bulimba, because she really listened. She listened to homeschooling families. She listened to MPs who went and saw her and said, 'Look, I just I don't think this is the way to go. We need to do more work in this space and address the concerns.' The minister established the Home Education Expert Group, and their personal experiences were vital to informing how the homeschooling sector is regulated and advanced.

One of the key proposed changes in the bill is to extend the current age eligibility requirements for home education registrations from 17 years old to 31 December in the year the student turns 18. That maintains eligibility for student related financial supports and education resources, mending the current discrepancy that left 18-year-old home education students without the same supports as their state and private school education peers in the same circumstances.

We know how important it is for all students to be involved and to have the same opportunities. We know that this provision is largely supported by stakeholders who provided feedback on this bill and the former Labor government's bill. I note the comments of the Queensland Family and Child Commission in their submission to the committee. They stated—

This reform will allow students to complete their final year of schooling in a manner that best suits their needs, which is especially important for those who may face challenges in traditional school settings or need additional time to reach academic milestones.

The Home Education Association Queensland chapter, Australia's peak homeschooling association, further outlined the benefits in their submission. They stated—

Some benefits that result from increasing the age limit are:

- Access to additional education opportunities such as traineeships, apprenticeships, Vocational Education and Training with RTOs or TAFE at School, and Uni at School ...
- Ability to participate in school-based competitions and challenges as home-educating students, such as arts, STEM and geography competitions ...
- Ability to participate in District and Regional Sports ...
- Access to needed financial support—

that was a real big one—

Increasing the age of registration enables families to continue receiving assistance in the form of eligible Centrelink payments and, for some, the Assistance for Isolated Children allowance ...

I want to acknowledge the many parents of homeschooling children who also made submissions to the committee expressing their support. It was their extensive stakeholder feedback that informed our approach to homeschooling. We read their submissions and listened to what they had to say, as we intended when we announced the review in 2024.

Labor supports this bill because it is, frankly, our bill reheated and served up by a lazy government that has repeatedly demonstrated that it lacks the care and passion our schools and students deserve. This side of the House will continue to work with teachers, P&Cs and home education stakeholders to ensure their needs are listened to, and we will hold the government to account to deliver on their promises.



Mr VORSTER (Burleigh—LNP) (8.07 pm): The state schooling system is the foundation for the future prosperity of this state. If we properly resource the sector we can unleash incredible things for Queensland. If we can provide our children—that next generation—with knowledge, a love of learning and the cutting-edge skills that they need to manoeuvre around a changing economy, we can make sure that we can enliven their aspirations and build something phenomenal in this great part of the Commonwealth. In order to achieve that, we must first unleash the potential of our teachers. We cannot do that if our teachers are constrained by endless process—process that is often a solution in search of a problem. If we can somehow as a state remove the minutiae from that job and allow our teachers to reconnect with their passion, to bring that passion into the classroom, then I think there are better days ahead for Queensland. Unfortunately, though, that is not the Queensland education system that we inherited.

Throughout various stages of the consultation, led by our phenomenal education minister, what we found was that teachers were spending their time completing their own homework rather than setting homework for the students in their class. That was grinding them down. I know that because during the recent election campaign I had the opportunity to meet and speak with many teachers on their doorsteps. They told me of a system that had robbed them of the joy of their profession and robbed them of the opportunity to provide the attention that the children in their classrooms so deserved. They ached for change, so at that election when we announced a policy to reduce red tape for teachers and to give schools more power to deliver the education and experience demanded of local communities that was something they could get behind.

Their support and the support of the community delivered us an opportunity to do just that. We did not wait—like the former Labor government waited for 10 years—to do absolutely nothing. We got to work right away. Very quickly the education minister commenced a series of roundtable discussions, bringing together educational practitioners at absolutely every level. When I had occasion to visit some of my local state schools I received incredible feedback from those principals who felt that, after 10 long years, there was finally a government prepared to get off of their backs and give them the freedom and breathing space to deliver the experience that local kids deserved.

I heard that feedback right across my electorate. Again I do want to thank the education minister, who did not just convene a roundtable process across the state of Queensland but who took the time to visit schools individually in my electorate. Whether it was at Caningeraba State School, Burleigh Heads State School or Palm Beach Currumbin State High School, he was there to listen to those delivering education and a better future.

We have now before us a bill that captures the spirit of those reforms. It is important to reflect on the fact that the red tape reductions announced that are contained as part of this bill are the second step, because quite soon after the election—not even waiting for legislation—our minister took the opportunity to introduce six measures to begin easing the red tape burden. This bill is the second step. In the fullness of time we would have reduced red tape for our educational sector by 25 per cent.

What does it mean to reduce red tape by 25 per cent, which is our commitment? It means teachers being freed up to pay attention to children who need help. It means more time for teachers to sit alongside and inspire those kids prepared to take the very next step. It means that principals have more time to engage with their communities to understand what programs might be needed to meet the challenges of the local area. Time is money, and red tape reduction is a way of delivering better resource utilisation in our state education system.

It is not just about freeing up time that our government is all about; it is also about securing extra resources and extra funding. As well as doing something today, which Labor were incapable of doing for 10 years, we did something they were also incapable of doing: working with the Commonwealth Government to deliver a funding deal that would finally see our state schools fully funded. It is quite absurd to hear those opposite preach that they are the custodians of the state school system and that only they can be trusted. The results on this side lay their track record exposed because it is this side that reduces red tape, it is this side that backs in teachers and looks after their welfare, and it is this side of the House that secures children the funding and resources they need—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): One moment, member for Burleigh. Members for Inala and McConnel, could you stop interjecting, please, and let the member for Burleigh finish his speech.

Mr VORSTER: Thank you so much, Madam Deputy Speaker. Had we been in the classroom, I am sure those members would have ended up in the principal's office. The good news about that is had they been suspended, the principal now need not deliver that news themselves because this act now allows principals to delegate that authority, which frees up their time. I also think about the welfare of students, because for the first time those who are delegated, who may have better and closer relationships with those students and their families, can deliver the news in the most constructive way possible.

I really do want to close, because I know there are many members eager to contribute to this debate as it nears its close. I do want to pay special tribute to school leaders in my community such as Scott Anderson from Palm Beach State School, Rob Templeton, the principal at Burleigh Heads State School—

Ms Grace interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one moment, member for Burleigh. Member for McConnell, I am going to caution you.

Mr VORSTER:—Mrs Karen Gravendyk, who looks after the primary campus at Varsity College, and Michelle Flynn at Caningeraba State School.

Before I sit down I do now want to reflect on the member for McConnell, and I am only doing this because of her interjections. As a local area councillor I developed an incredibly close relationship with my schools, and I could see that they were being let down by a rotten Labor government. Although I was in the wrong level of government, I wanted to make sure I looked after them. I wrote to the member for McConnell, the then education minister, and I begged and I pleaded with the minister. I said, 'Minister, the needs of Varsity College are not being met by your government. There is a parcel of land that would allow that school to develop more classrooms. There is a parcel of land that would satisfy the parking needs of those teachers. There is a parcel of land that would open up green and open space for that school,' because that school had no oval of its own. The former education minister, the member for McConnell, wrote back and said no. Instead, that land was developed. We now have apartment blocks there and that school forever will have no green and open space of its own. That is a very sad outcome for the central and southern end of the Gold Coast. The fact that the member for McConnell did not take that into consideration when she interjected as I spoke about Varsity College shows that her government never, ever cared about Varsity College. Thank goodness the government changed—

Ms GRACE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Now it is getting out of control. I take offence and ask that it be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, the member for McConnell has taken offence. Will you withdraw, please?

Mr VORSTER: I most certainly withdraw. In conclusion, this government is committed to the prosperity of the state—prosperity built on the back of an incredible education system where every student can enjoy the facilities and resources they need. Thank goodness the government changed, because that is precisely the future Queensland kids can look forward to thanks to the work of our education minister.



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (8.18 pm): I rise to speak on this bill. The Labor opposition will always back in our teachers. We acknowledge the hard work they do every day to educate and support our children. We also recognise that their jobs have become increasingly more challenging. I know that because, like all members in this House, we speak to all of our teachers and principals in our electorates. We know that they are struggling with increasing occupational violence, red tape and work claims. The LNP government promised to fix these problems, but none of them have been addressed in this bill.

Teachers are crying out for more support managing their classrooms. Many of their students have different learning and behavioural needs that require extra classroom support, but there is nothing in this bill that provides teachers with that type of support. In August this year, more than 50,000 Queensland teachers went on strike for the first time in 16 years to demand more support from this government. Teachers deserve better pay and working conditions for the work they do, but the education minister is not listening. He was the first education minister in 16 years to have strike action taken against him. That should be a wake-up call for him. Instead, the minister has tabled a bill that copies Labor's lapsed bill from last year and introduces changes that fail to address the real concerns teachers have raised with this government.

David Crisafulli said he would sack ministers if they did not achieve their KPIs. This bill achieves none of the education minister's KPIs, and it is not just the opposition pointing this out. The Department of Education also admitted during the committee process that this bill does not contain any new measures that will achieve the education minister's KPIs. One of the minister's KPIs included a promised 25 per cent reduction in red tape for teachers.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House, I call the Minister for Education to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (8.20 pm), in reply: In replying to the debate on the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, I want to acknowledge the contributions to the debate from members of both sides of the House. As we have heard, the bill sets out important reforms that will reduce red tape on schools, parents and students and support safety and continuity of education for students as well as support the safety of school communities. The value of these reforms is clearly demonstrated by the contributions of members and feedback from stakeholders. This bill is a first step to support our schools, our teachers and our students by reducing red tape and the regulatory burden while putting in place measures to support student and school community safety.

Queensland's very first school opened nearly 200 years ago, in 1826, with just 16 children. Today, Queensland has 1,266 state schools, with 564,846 students enrolled in state schools as at August 2025. We have 551 non-state schools, with 321,885 full-time-equivalent students enrolled at non-state schools as at February 2025. In addition, as at August 2025 there were 11,800 students registered for home education, and I want to acknowledge that there has been a significant increase in that sector over the last couple of years, especially since COVID.

The importance of education and its delivery to children and young people has been at the forefront of government services for almost 200 years. It used to be called the Secretary of Public Instruction, but of course it changed some time ago to the Department of Education, and I am very honoured to have been made the Minister for Education and the Arts in this the 58th Parliament. Working with our sector stakeholders and supporting Queensland's modern education framework is key to making sure all Queensland children can access a world-class education system. The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering a fresh start for Queenslanders, with a world-class education system. The work to ensure all children have a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment that fosters strong foundations is already underway.

The government has a strong commitment to lifting literacy and mathematics standards in our schools. Under the former Labor government results have plummeted, attendance has fallen and teachers and principals are under immense administrative burden. I know this because I visit schools every week. Labor's failures and disinterest in better outcomes for Queensland kids were reinforced by the shadow minister's lack of attendance throughout the first reading of the bill. I note, however, the member for Bulimba supports these reforms.

Ms Grace: They are ours.

Mr LANGBROEK: I will take that interjection. If they were so confident about the reforms, why did they not proceed with the bill? The answer is that the then shadow minister, the member for Moggill, was able to expose the lack of support from the community, and that bill was subsequently withdrawn in the 57th Parliament. I am the first to acknowledge that both sides of the House have good ideas, but it is important that those ideas are brought into action following consultation. It is clear by the acknowledgement of those opposite, including the member for Logan, that the ideas they had in the 57th Parliament were inadequate to satisfy the community they proclaimed they were trying to serve—as exposed by the then shadow minister, the member for Moggill. The member for Logan acknowledged it in his contribution tonight.

In contrast to what the member for Bulimba suggested about the Crisafulli government's focus on school disciplinary absences, the Crisafulli government is acutely focused on practical and targeted ways to support teachers and schools to respond to student needs and support positive behaviour. In February 2025 the government announced the Behaviour Boost, which is a direct-to-school resource. The Behaviour Boost delivers an investment totalling \$44.47 million and provides principals with the flexibility to engage staff with the skills they need to support their student behaviour and staff in their school.

Under the Behaviour Boost, approximately 343 full-time-equivalent staff have been provided to Queensland state schools, in addition to their current targeted resourcing. We heard from the member for Redcliffe in the second reading debate about the practical effects at Humpybong State School in

her electorate, a school that she attended as well. When I was there about six weeks ago with the member for Redcliffe, it was made very clear to us that there were students identified in that cohort who were at risk of having behaviour issues but that, because of the focus of the principal, resources had been put to use and those students were improving their literacy and numeracy as well as their behaviour. This was a practical application of this policy.

Just last week I was in the Callide electorate and we had a principal round table at Calliope State High School, where principals shared their success stories. There were about 10 principals from the Gladstone area, as well as the principal from Banana State School and a number of other schools in that area, including three high schools. They were all represented and they shared their success stories in implementing Behaviour Boost.

Examples of what these school principals are now doing include bringing in psychologists and mental health support for students, and this has helped change the culture of schools and improve student wellbeing. When I was at Palm Beach Currumbin recently, as the member for Burleigh acknowledged, the principal mentioned to me that they have engaged a social worker to deal with families outside the school and that that social worker was having more success in engaging with families than he would as the principal. We have given principals the flexibility to use resources in a way that best serves their community. This is a principle that we applied last time we were in government when we spoke about autonomy in schools, as well as quality teaching and making sure there is discipline and values in our schools. The Behaviour Boost is designed to meet the unique needs of each school community. This resource gives schools the tools they need to create safer, more supportive learning environments.

We are focused on tailored solutions for every school but we do not try to decide what those tailored solutions should be. Members on this side of the House will confirm that their principals have been given the resource—basically a doubling of the traditional behaviour resource they have received—and they are able to choose the best way to use that money. Every school is different, and the Behaviour Boost gives schools the flexibility to use resources in a way that best meets the needs of their students and communities. This ensures that support is targeted and effective.

We have gone further. In August 2025—and this is the day I was at Humpybong with the member for Redcliffe—the Crisafulli government committed to the continuation of the Behaviour Boost with an additional \$45 million each year. Make no mistake: we are continuing to listen to principals and support schools in the way that makes the biggest difference. The Behaviour Boost was introduced in response to direct feedback from principals, who called for more flexibility in appointing specialist staff to meet their school's specific needs. This initiative reflects the Crisafulli government's commitment to listening and acting on what schools need most.

It is also disappointing to hear the member for Bulimba's lack of understanding about changes to OneSchool considering the updates started under Labor and are based on the Department of Education's internal colour scheme approved under the former Labor government. The shadow minister would know this is something that is based on changes that I think were initiated in 2021, and this was planned in 2024 before the election that we had last year on 26 October. The member for Bulimba omitted from her speech that she had removed all home education amendments from the previous, lapsed bill including the extension for age eligibility for home education registration. My office has met with home education stakeholders and I look forward to meeting with them in the coming weeks. In fact, I have met them, just not in the formal sense; but, as I said, I am planning to do that very shortly.

In 2024 the former Labor government carelessly attempted to amend this bill under the then minister, the member for Moggill, without proper consultation resulting, as I have already acknowledged, in over 2,000 submissions from impacted stakeholders. During the recent committee hearing, Ms Bartle, Director for free2Homeschool, remarked—

The previous bill was put forward with a lack of consultation, which obviously caused some dramas in our community, so we stepped forward and put in enough submissions to be at the point we are at today.

The Crisafulli government understands the importance of partnership and consultation with stakeholders, investing time and reviewing each of the submissions and offering further consultation with key stakeholders before putting the bill to the House. On 24 March 2025, as I mentioned in my second reading, we reached an agreement with the Australian government through the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement. Under the Miles Labor government, the education bill languished, showing a lack of priority for education, unlike the Crisafulli government, which is focused on delivering and meeting the needs of Queensland students, schools and families.

I want to thank the member for Keppel for his stewardship of the committee and his contribution as a teacher in Queensland's education system. I thank the member for Keppel for sharing his firsthand experiences about system failures under the previous Labor government. The member for Keppel understands the need for positive reforms, reducing red tape and supporting classrooms by prioritising learning and safety in schools. That is why in the first 100 days we delivered on our commitment to form the Red Tape Reduction Working Group.

I would like to address comments from a number of members opposite. Whilst being in support of reforms in the bill, it almost seemed like they were complaining they were being progressed by the Crisafulli government. It was confusing, but overall I take the support of reforms in the bill as encouraging and a demonstration that the Crisafulli government is doing the right thing in delivering for the people of Queensland.

I want to mention some of the issues that we have practically dealt with that are not always necessarily covered by legislation. Six early red-tape-reduction actions were announced to maintain momentum separate to the ones mentioned, and the member for Burleigh mentioned these. The six include: introducing a one-plan-per-student approach to student needs management assessments to reduce the burden under the current policy, which requires numerous duplicative plans per pupil; simplifying time-consuming procurement processes by reducing the number of quotes required for low-value, routine purchases, which will improve efficiency and reduce paperwork whilst ensuring value for money is maintained; launching a single point of contact for teacher recruitment to make the process faster, easier and more efficient for principals—they are red-tape-reduction measures for teachers, for students and for parents—releasing a set of consistent statewide expectations between parents, guardians and their child's school—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Can you pause for one second? There is too much chatter in this chamber.

Mr LANGBROEK: Those expectations or guidelines set clear boundaries around acceptable behaviour, preferred forms of communication and appropriate timelines for responses. Importantly, teachers and principals receiving emails at all hours of the night and being expected to respond by the next morning or at that very late hour is completely inappropriate. That is one of the things we have taken as an early action. We are also asking our departmental senior executives to spend time immersed in schools to ensure they understand firsthand the challenges that schools face and can put this knowledge at the centre of decision-making.

When I was in Callide last week it was pointed out to me—and I have already passed back to the acting director-general—that sometimes a regional office might say that a change has been made in the name of red-tape reduction, but it pushes more red tape back onto the school. That is an unwanted side effect, an unintended consequence. I have said that we need to make sure we listen to that and look at those specific complaints to make sure that by removing red tape in one area we are not adding it in another part of our schooling system.

Finally, the sixth thing we did was release a small-school support plan, which includes a statewide selection process for aspiring small-school leaders to reduce the administrative burden of continual recruitment processes and improved leadership continuity in small schools. That was because sometimes there was not as clear a process for small-school principals to understand how they could enhance their leadership. I notice the member for Lockyer, who certainly has some of those small schools in his electorate.

Mr O'Connor: Hatton Vale, you are going there next week.

Mr LANGBROEK: I am going to Hatton Vale next week. I was in Roadvale with the member for Scenic Rim and a very passionate—not the principal—teacher who proudly showed me around her school and her school community of wonderful young students. That is what I think all of us in this House understand and are passionate about. We need to make sure that when we are commenting about red-tape reduction we acknowledge not only the work that is ongoing, which will progress, but also the work that has already been done. We have taken the elements of the bill that were supported by the community and have enhanced them with the practical measures we have been taking.

The member for Pumicestone hit the nail on the head when stating that schools are at their best when they can focus on learning, and reforms in this bill help deliver that. I remember as one my first actions going to Pumicestone late last year to see the youngest female member ever elected to this parliament. I want to congratulate her on her passion and her commitment to the students in her electorate.

I note the members for Mansfield and Toohey made mention of safeguards around approved online services. I want to assure the House, parents and students that the bill provides robust safeguards for the security and privacy of student information. Assessing a service to be an approved online service means it must be assessed against the nationally endorsed framework Safer Technologies 4 Schools, which I mentioned in my second reading. That includes assessing whether the service can protect the privacy and online security of relevant information about students. Safer Technologies 4 Schools was developed with privacy-by-design and safety-by-design principles and is updated routinely to account for emerging technologies such as AI and machine learning as well as evolving privacy and security risks.

As recognised by the member for Mulgrave, implementation of this reform will be undertaken carefully to ensure that safeguards are thoroughly embedded. It was with great pride that we were in Cairns with the member for Barron River a couple of months ago. We were at Cairns State Special School announcing a new hall at that school, which was not in an LNP electorate. I want to acknowledge that the member for Logan is passionate about the schooling in his area and the fact that we bought land and are planning for enhanced schooling as part of the 15 schools announced in the budget.

I take the point made by the member for Scenic Rim. How does a member take issue with bringing forward a policy for reducing red tape and criticise the necessary action that has been taken? That reflects the lack of action on education reforms under the former Labor government. The Crisafulli government is taking action and does not wait nearly 10 years to respond to a royal commission. Within months we are progressing reforms that the former Labor government did not progress in years. I have already mentioned the member for Redcliffe's contribution. I want to thank the member for Hervey Bay for his contribution as well.

This bill supports access to education and reduces red tape. After 10 years of compliance increases on schools, the bill delivers relief and reform and gives back trust and autonomy to teachers. I want to thank my departmental staff for their work as well as my ministerial staff, although sometimes they prefer not to be named—and we will get to that another time. I do want to thank them for their dedication and for the preparation of the bill.

In conclusion, as I have already mentioned, being the Minister for Education is a great privilege, and I know that this is a subject that governments exist for. Apart from the safety of our constituents, the education system is something that we are very proud of. It is my job to ensure that parents and children throughout the state who do not always have access to non-state education are given the appropriate teachers, the appropriate infrastructure and access to learning. As someone who was state school educated throughout the state, that is something that I am very proud of.

As the member for Logan acknowledged, education has a transformative nature. Many members in this House, including yesterday's contribution by the now former member for Hinchinbrook, acknowledged the fact that when we were younger we never would have expected to be in this place, and that is largely through the education that we received and having been given the opportunity to be in situations that we might never have thought we would. It is the greatest privilege to be the Minister for Education and the Arts in the Crisafulli government. I want to thank all members for their contributions. I look forward to the passage of this bill pending the amendments that I will move.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—



Mr LANGBROEK (8.40 pm): I seek leave to move amendments outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr LANGBROEK: I move amendments Nos 1 and 2 circulated in my name—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 6, after line 6—

insert—

(1) The following provisions commence on 1 January 2026—

- (a) part 2, division 2A;
- (b) part 3, divisions 2 to 11.

2 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 6, line 7, before 'The'—
insert—

(2)

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

Tabled paper: Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. John-Paul Langbroek's amendments.

Tabled paper: Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. John-Paul Langbroek's amendments.

Amendment No. 1 relates to the commencement of this on 1 January 2026. Amendment No. 1 amends clause 2 of the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill to provide all of the amendments relating to the Queensland Catholic Education Commission changing to Catholic Education Queensland Ltd and that amendments relating to the removal of rest period conditions on service approvals for Early Childhood Education and Care services will commence on 1 January 2026. I will speak more to those specific issues as we get beyond just the date of commencement.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 8, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 9 and 10—

 **Ms FARMER** (8.42 pm): I rise to speak briefly to clauses 9 and 10, which deal with the provisional age of registration for homeschooling. Clause 9 amends section 206 of the E(GP)A to increase the provisional registration age to 18. The Labor opposition welcomes this change on behalf of the home education sector and thanks it for its advocacy. During my time as minister I commenced the review into homeschooling and since then, including even now in opposition, I have had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with the home education community to hear what it needs to better support it. I thank the committee for including in its report on the bill a recommendation that further consideration be given to increasing the provisional age of registration further, to 18 years and six months. Each child's education journey is different, particularly for those in homeschooling. As many in the sector have said, this further increase would ensure no child who perhaps has had a different approach to education would be cut short or miss out on opportunities. It also affords the same access to a fulsome education for those who may have missed a term or semester due to serious illness or other reasons.

To conclude, I have two questions for the minister regarding this clause. Can the minister advise what work is being undertaken by his department to consider and implement this further change to section 206; and on what date will further changes in relation to homeschooling on this matter and responses to the Queensland Home Education Unit review be tabled in the House for consideration, please?

Mr LANGBROEK: I thank the member for the questions and can acknowledge, as she has mentioned, the facts of clauses 9 and 10. When it comes to home education age eligibility, I know that the member is interested in the fact that the bill is extending age eligibility for home education registration by 12 months to mean that a young person is eligible up until 31 December in the year the young person turns 18.

I mentioned in my second reading speech about aligning with the 13 years of education provided to students who attend school from prep to year 12. I said in my reply speech that I have had my staff meeting with people interested in home education. We have said that following a recommendation of the committee we are going to continue the consultation. I am unable to provide a date as requested by the member but, importantly, given that when the member was the minister the whole bill had to be withdrawn, we are prepared to keep consulting. I have already mentioned that I am going to be meeting the home education expert group.

A government member interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: There were 2,000 submissions against that bill at the time. We have set up another home education expert group. We know that access to financial supports is important and would be enabled by extending age eligibility, so it is important that we continue to consult about this issue, and we will do so.

Clauses 9 and 10, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 15, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr LANGBROEK (8.46 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr LANGBROEK: I move amendment No. 3 circulated in my name—

3 After clause 15

Page 13, after line 18—

insert—

Division 2A Amendment commencing on 1 January 2026

15A Amendment of s 251B (Consultation about planning)

Section 251B(b)—

omit, insert—

(b) Catholic Education Queensland Ltd ACN 689 899 223;

Amendment No. 3 inserts clause 15A regarding the amendment of section 251B of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 which provides that the chief executive must consult with QCEC about planning activities to omit a reference to the Queensland Catholic Education Commission in subsection (b) and replace it with a reference to Catholic Education Queensland Ltd ACN 689 899 223. Let me give some more specific detail because it is the first time beyond clause 2 that I can give some more explanation to the House about this.

I have mentioned that the bill updates legislation to replace references to QCEC with Catholic Education Queensland Ltd, or CEQL. Following a review of governance and consultation with stakeholders to strengthen transparency and accountability, QCEC is to be replaced by CEQL. CEQL will operate as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee under the Commonwealth Corporations Act 2001 and will be governed by an independent board under the oversight of the Queensland bishops and other Catholic representative bodies.

These amendments make sure CEQL can continue QCEC's responsibilities, such as representing Catholic schools on education boards, managing capital assistance funding and supporting kindergartens, without any disruption. The bill updates the name Queensland Catholic Education Commission, or QCEC, wherever it appears in relevant laws with CEQL—for example, updating references to QCEC membership on statutory boards such as the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, changing the entity eligible for school capital assistance funding from QCEC to CEQL, and updating the name of the central governing body for Catholic kindergartens under the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Regulation 2022. These amendments are minor and technical but essential for the smooth transfer of responsibilities.

The amendments also replace one reference to the Corporation of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Queensland, ensuring all references align with CEQL's new legal structure. Transitional prep provisions ensure any existing authorisations held by QCEC, or the Corporation of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Queensland, automatically apply to CEQL on 1 January 2026 so there is no disruption to funding or data-sharing arrangements. For the benefit of the House, the change simply means CEQL will now be named in the law where QCEC once was, keeping the same responsibilities and representation across education and early childhood matters.

For the department, the amendments maintain longstanding partnerships with Catholic education, ensuring existing consultation, funding and governance arrangements continue without interruption. The department has worked closely with QCEC throughout the legislative process to reflect the new governance model. The Early Childhood Regulatory Authority and the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism have also been consulted and support the approach. As we mentioned in an earlier clause, the amendments start on 1 January 2026. From that date, CEQL will take on QCEC's existing roles. All approvals, data-sharing arrangements and partnerships that QCEC currently holds will automatically carry over so there is no disruption for their operations. The department will keep working closely with CEQL to make sure the handover is smooth. This includes updating references on websites and in governance materials and letting other agencies and partners know about the change.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 16 to 33, as read, agreed to.

Clause 34—



Ms McMILLAN (8.51 pm): I rise to speak to clause 34 and pose questions to the minister regarding its application. Transfer notes provide all the important information a school may require for new students. We have considered closely and accept the merits of the proposals put forward by submitters to the bill, including the Independent Education Union and the Queensland Family and Child Commission which outline the potential for early intervention through the use of transfer notes. There is an opportunity to better safeguard our students and ensure they are not falling through the cracks, particularly for those who are transferring schools due to exclusions, disciplinary matters or when families move cities. For example, When a transfer note is requested by an incoming school or triggered when a student leaves a school, the Department of Education through OneSchool or the Australian government's Unique Student Identifier could track the student to ensure the student goes on to be enrolled in a state or non-state school.

Currently approximately 1,500 children are disengaged from school in greater Brisbane. As we know, there is a clear link between school disengagement and youth crime. In fact, engagement in school is the greatest preventive factor against a child entering the youth justice system; disengagement is the greatest predictive factor. Any efforts to reduce the number of students not being supported to remain in the classroom should be considered. Will the Minister for Education advise whether the government is giving any further consideration to the reform of the application of transfer notes, including whether there will be a mandate to track students across schools as they move throughout Queensland and Australia?

Mr LANGBROEK: I thank the honourable member for the question. It gives me a chance not only to update the House about this specific question that the member has asked but also to explain to the House why we are making the change. The bill responds to a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The royal commission recommended proportionate and proactive information sharing when students transfer between schools to support student and staff safety and wellbeing at the new school.

The Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, the E(GP)A, currently enables the sharing of relevant information about students using a transfer note on an optional basis when a student moves between Queensland state or non-state schools. The bill makes the use of transfer notes mandatory, reflecting an increased focus on the safety and wellbeing of students and school communities and supporting the continuity of a student's education. Once a student has started at their new school, the principal will be required to seek a transfer note from the school's previous school within 90 days. Within the same 90 day period the principal of the student's new school may also request transfer notes from any other Queensland school that the student was enrolled at within the previous 12 months.

The honourable member asked specifically about disengaged students. I continue to work closely with my ministerial colleagues, the Minister for Child Safety and the Minister for Youth Justice. I have been to a number of crime prevention schools like Ohana associated with Griffith University in Logan and Men of Business—they are schools that we are working very closely with to try to improve the situation that the honourable member refers to in respect of disengagement. Given this is a recommendation from the royal commission, we need to make sure that the transfer note includes information about the student that the student's previous principal reasonably believes is necessary to help the principal of the new school protect the safety and wellbeing of the student or members of the school community.

We do not shy away from the fact that we are trying to make sure—allowing for privacy provisions—that there is information sharing between departments. This is something that principals advised me on the last time I was the minister—hopefully not now that we are addressing issues such as this. They would often say they could not be advised because of privacy provisions about issues that might be affecting those children who were disengaged. It can be homelessness, it can be domestic and family violence. It can be issues to do with alcohol or drugs. I vaguely remember being at Mountain Creek State High School at a previous principal forum many years ago. There were issues where a principal would say he or she had a calm classroom, or a year, and suddenly a student who may have been excluded from another school came to his or her school and the behaviour issues affecting those students—including the one that the honourable member for Mansfield mentioned—have caused disruption in the school.

By coordination between the departments and the ministries that I have already mentioned, we are trying to make a clear distinction, as opposed to governments over the years who just said privacy

provisions would prevent information being shared being schools. We acknowledging that under the previous government those schools—the youth justice and the crime prevention schools—were often condemned by those opposite. We want those students to end up with an education and we do not want to hear what we heard from Labor members opposite in the previous parliament.

The mayor of Townsville blamed some of the youth crime activity on the baby bonus that was brought in by Peter Costello. That mayor was dealt with by the people of Townsville and I look forward to them having a mayor in the future who will not use trite excuses for the youth crime that she allowed to flourish in cahoots with those opposite in the 57th Parliament. We are acting on it. We have seen crime go down by 6.5 per cent already and we are looking forward to making sure that it continues to decrease.

Clause 34, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 35 to 39, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr LANGBROEK (8.58 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Mr LANGBROEK: I move amendment No. 4 circulated in my name—

4 After part 3, heading

Page 44, after line 6—

insert—

Division 1 Amendment of Child Safe Organisations Act 2024

39A Act amended

This division amends the *Child Safe Organisations Act 2024*.

39B Amendment of s 2 (Commencement)

- (1) Section 2(1), 'to (6)'—

omit, insert—

to (4)

- (2) Section 2(4)(n), ' , sections 4, 5, 8 and 9'—

omit.

- (3) Section 2(5) and (6)—

omit.

39C Amendment of s 49 (Particular entities may share information for reportable conduct scheme)

- (1) Section 49(6), definition *relevant information*, paragraph (a)(ii), 'paragraph (a)'—

omit, insert—

subparagraph (i)

- (2) Section 49(6), definition *relevant information*, paragraph (a)(iii), 'paragraph (b)'—

omit, insert—

subparagraph (ii)

39D Amendment of s 109 (Review of Act)

Section 109(1), '1 July 2030'—

omit, insert—

1 July 2029

39E Amendment of s 112 (Application of ch 3 for conduct or convictions before a reporting entity's start date)

- (1) Section 112, heading, 'a reporting entity's start date'—

omit, insert—

commencement

- (2) Section 112(1), 'start date for the entity unless, after the entity's start date'—

omit, insert—

commencement of this section unless, after the commencement

- (3) Section 112(2), 'start date for the entity'—

omit, insert—

commencement of this section

(4) Section 112(4)—
omit.

39F Amendment of s 130 (Sch 4 amendments)

Section 130(1), '*Working with Child (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000*'—
omit, insert—

Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000

39G Amendment of sch 4 (Provisions amended by section 130)

Schedule 4, section 7—

insert—

- Section 282(1)(f) and (2)(a)

Amendment agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr LANGBROEK (8.59 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Mr LANGBROEK: I move amendment No. 5 circulated in my name—

5 After part 3, heading

Page 44, after line 6—

insert—

Division 2 Amendment of Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017

39H Act amended

This division amends the *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017*.

39I Amendment of s 20 (Board must notify entities of, and publish, application details)

Section 20(a), 'QCEC'—

omit, insert—

CEQL

39J Amendment of s 39 (Application to change attribute of accreditation)

Section 39(5), 'QCEC'—

omit, insert—

CEQL

39K Amendment of s 102 (Membership of board)

Section 102(1)(b) and (e), 'QCEC'—

omit, insert—

CEQL

39L Amendment of s 103 (Nominee of ISQ or QCEC)

Section 103, heading, 'QCEC'—

omit, insert—

CEQL

39M Insertion of new ch 6, pt 2, div 1, hdg

Before section 181—

insert—

Division 1 Transitional provisions for Act No. 24 of 2017

39N Amendment of s 181 (Definitions for part)

Section 181, 'part'—

omit, insert—

division

39O Insertion of new ch 6, pt 2, div 2

Chapter 6, part 2—

insert—

Division 2 Transitional provisions for Education (General Provisions) Amendment Act 2025

198 Definitions for division

In this division—

former, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from time to time before the commencement.

new, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from the commencement.

QCEC means the Queensland Catholic Education Commission within the meaning of this Act as in force from time to time before the commencement.

199 Notices given to QCEC under former s 20 or 39

- (1) This section applies to a notice given to QCEC under former section 20(a) or 39(5) if, immediately before the commencement, the period for giving the notice had not ended.
- (2) The notice is taken to have been given to CEQL.

200 Membership of board—Minister's consultation nominees and person nominated by QCEC

- (1) From the commencement—
 - (a) a person who, immediately before the commencement, held office as a member under former section 102(1)(b) is taken to hold office as a member under new section 102(1)(b); and
 - (b) a person who, immediately before the commencement, held office as a member under former section 102(1)(e) is taken to hold office as a member under new section 102(1)(e).
- (2) Subsection (3) applies if—
 - (a) either—
 - (i) the term of office of a member under new section 102(1)(b) is to end within 3 months after the commencement; or
 - (ii) immediately before the commencement, the office of a member under former section 102(1)(b) was vacant; and
 - (b) before the commencement, the Minister had consulted with QCEC in relation to the Minister's nomination of a person for appointment to the office.
- (3) For the purpose of appointing a person to the office after the commencement, the Minister's consultation with QCEC is taken to be consultation with CEQL.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies if—
 - (a) either—
 - (i) the term of office of a member under new section 102(1)(e) is to end within 3 months after the commencement; or
 - (ii) immediately before the commencement, the office of a member under former section 102(1)(e) was vacant; and
 - (b) before the commencement, QCEC had nominated a person for appointment to the office.
- (5) For the purpose of appointing a person to the office after the commencement, the nomination of the person by QCEC is taken to be the nomination of the person by CEQL.

201 Effect of notice given to QCEC under former s 103

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) either—
 - (i) the term of office of a member under new section 102(1)(e) is to end within 3 months after the commencement; or
 - (ii) immediately before the commencement, the office of a member under former section 102(1)(e) was vacant; and
 - (b) before the commencement, the Minister gave QCEC a notice under former section 103(2) in relation to the nomination of a person for appointment to the office.
- (2) The Minister is taken to have given the notice to CEQL.

39P Amendment of sch 1 (Dictionary)

- (1) Schedule 1, definition *QCEC*—
omit.
- (2) Schedule 1—
insert—

CEQL means Catholic Education Queensland Ltd ACN 689 899 223.

This enables me to give some detail about the Reportable Conduct Scheme. The bill amends the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024, the CSO Act, to bring forward Reportable Conduct Scheme, RCS, commencement for some sectors. We are making this change in response to reports of child abuse in early childhood centres. I acknowledge that the minister is here as well. The Queensland government announced the early childhood education and care sector, the ECEC, will be required to comply with

RCS obligations from 1 July 2026, one year earlier than currently legislated. To further strengthen RCS safeguards, the bill amends the CSO Act to bring forward full implementation of the RCS obligations across all—

Mr SPEAKER: It being 9 pm, under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill without further amendment or debate. We were dealing with the minister's amendment No. 5.

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 5 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: I note that the minister's amendments Nos 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore require leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 6 to 15, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments, as circulated—

6 After part 3, heading

Page 44, after line 6—

insert—

Division 3 Amendment of Education and Care Services Act 2013

39Q Act amended

This division amends the *Education and Care Services Act 2013*.

39R Amendment of s 44 (Form of application for service approval)

Section 44(1), note—

omit.

39S Amendment of s 56 (Form of application for exceptional circumstances service approval)

Section 56(1), note—

omit.

39T Amendment of s 65 (Amendment of service approval on application)

Section 65(2), note—

omit.

39U Amendment of s 110 (Standard requirements)

Section 110(2)—

omit.

39V Omission of s 112 (Rest periods)

Section 112—

omit.

39W Insertion of new pt 11, div 3

Part 11—

insert—

Division 3 Transitional provisions for Education (General Provisions) Amendment Act 2025

261 Definitions for division

In this division—

former section 112 means section 112 as in force from time to time before the commencement.

rest period condition, in relation to a service approval for a QEC approved service, means a condition under former section 112(1).

262 Rest period condition of no effect

- (1) This section applies in relation to a service approval for a QEC approved service if, immediately before the commencement, the service approval included a rest period condition.
- (2) From the commencement—

- (a) the rest period condition is of no effect; and
- (b) the service approval is taken not to include the rest period condition.

263 Undecided applications including request for rest period condition

- (1) This section applies in relation to an application under this Act for a service approval, an amendment of a service approval or an exceptional circumstances service approval made before the commencement if—
 - (a) the application included a request for a rest period condition; and
 - (b) immediately before the commencement, the application had not been decided.
- (2) The application must be decided as if it had not included the request for the rest period condition.

7 After part 3, heading

Page 44, after line 6—

insert—

Division 4 Amendment of Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Act 2011

39X Act amended

This division amends the *Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Act 2011*.

39Y Amendment, relocation and renumbering of pt 4, div 1 (Transitional)

- (1) Part 4, division 1, heading—
omit, insert—

Division 1 Transitional provisions for Act No. 38 of 2011

- (2) Part 4, division 1, as amended by this Act—
relocate to part 5, as inserted by this Act, and *renumber* as part 5, division 1.
- (3) Sections 27 to 31, as relocated by this Act, *renumber* as sections 46 to 50.

39Z Insertion of new pt 5

After part 4—

insert—

Part 5 Transitional provisions

Division 2 Transitional provisions for Education (General Provisions) Amendment Act 2025

51 Definition for division

In this division—

rest period condition, in relation to a service approval for an approved education and care service, means a condition providing for 1 or more periods during a day, totalling not more than 2 hours during the day, to be rest periods for the approved education and care service.

52 Rest period condition of no effect

- (1) This section applies in relation to a service approval if, immediately before the commencement, the service approval was subject to a rest period condition.
- (2) From the commencement—
 - (a) the rest period condition is of no effect; and
 - (b) the service approval is taken not to be subject to the rest period condition.

53 Undecided applications including request for rest period condition

- (1) This section applies in relation to an application under the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) for a service approval or an amendment of a service approval made before the commencement if—
 - (a) the application included a request for a rest period condition; and
 - (b) immediately before the commencement, the application had not been decided.
- (2) The application must be decided as if it had not included the request for the rest period condition.

54 Revocation of authority for particular employees or officers of Corporation of the Bishops

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) before the commencement, the chief executive gave written authority under section 33 to an employee or officer of the Corporation of the Bishops; and
 - (b) immediately before the commencement, the authority was still in force.
- (2) On the commencement, the authority is revoked.
- (3) In this section—

Corporation of the Bishops means the Corporation of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Queensland established under the *Roman Catholic Church (Incorporation of Church Entities) Act 1994*.

8 After part 3, heading

Page 44, after line 6—

insert—

Division 5 Amendment of Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Regulation 2022

39ZA Regulation amended

This division amends the *Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Regulation 2022*.

39ZB Amendment of s 3 (Central governing bodies—Act, s 32)

- (1) Section 3, before paragraph (a)—

insert—

(aa) Catholic Education Queensland Ltd ACN 689 899 223;

- (2) Section 3(c)—

omit.

- (3) Section 3(aa) to (b)—

renumber as section 3(a) to (c).

9 After part 3, heading

Page 44, after line 6—

insert—

Division 6 Amendment of Education (Capital Assistance) Act 1993

39ZC Act amended

This division amends the *Education (Capital Assistance) Act 1993*.

39ZD Amendment of s 7 (CAAs)

Section 7(1), 'The Queensland Catholic Education Commission'—

omit, insert—

Catholic Education Queensland Ltd CAN 689 899 223

39ZE Insertion of new pt 7, div 4

Part 7—

insert—

Division 4 Transitional provision for Education (General Provisions) Amendment Act 2025

30 CAA nominated by Queensland Catholic Education Commission

- (1) This section applies to a CAA if—

- (a) before the commencement, the CAA was nominated under former section 7(1);
and
(b) immediately before the commencement, the nomination was still in effect.

- (2) From the commencement, the CAA is taken to have been nominated under new section 7(1).

- (3) In this section—

former section 7(1) means section 7(1) as in force from time to time before the commencement.

new section 7(1) means section 7(1) as in force from the commencement.

10 After part 3, heading

Page 44, after line 6—

insert—

Division 7 Amendment of Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005

39ZF Act amended

This division amends the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005*.

39ZG Amendment of s 239 (Membership of board)

- (1) Section 239(1)(c) and (i)(ii), 'the Queensland Catholic Education Commission'—

omit, insert—

Catholic Education Queensland Ltd

- (2) Section 239(3)—

insert—

Catholic Education Queensland Ltd means Catholic Education Queensland Ltd ACN 689 899 223.

39ZH Insertion of new ch 12, pt 17

Chapter 12—

insert—

Part 17 Transitional provisions for Education (General Provisions) Amendment Act 2025

368 Definitions for part

In this part—

CEQL means Catholic Education Queensland Ltd ACN 689 899 223.

former, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from time to time before the commencement.

new, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from the commencement.

QCEC means the Queensland Catholic Education Commission within the meaning of former section 239.

369 Entities engaged before commencement to assist college in performing functions

- (1) Subsection (2) applies if—
 - (a) before the commencement, an entity that was an employing authority for a non-State school represented by QCEC was engaged under section 230B(3) to assist the college in performing its functions under section 230B; and
 - (b) on the commencement, the entity is an employing authority for a non-State school represented by CEQL.
- (2) To remove any doubt, it is declared that the representation of the non-State school by CEQL does not affect the engagement of the employing authority under section 230B(3).
- (3) Subsection (4) applies if, before the commencement, QCEC was engaged under section 230B(3) to assist the college in performing a function of the college under section 230B.
- (4) From the commencement—
 - (a) CEQL is taken to have been engaged under section 230B(3) to assist the college in performing the function on the same terms and conditions as QCEC was engaged immediately before the commencement; and
 - (b) if QCEC was engaged to assist the college in performing its functions of deciding certification applications or renewal applications—anything done by, or in relation to, QCEC before the commencement in relation to a certification application or renewal application that was not decided before the commencement is taken to have been done by, or in relation to, CEQL.

370 Membership of board for persons nominated by QCEC

- (1) From the commencement—
 - (a) a person who, immediately before the commencement, held office as a member of the board under former section 239(1)(c) is taken to hold office as a member of the board under new section 239(1)(c); and
 - (b) a person who, immediately before the commencement, held office as a member of the board under former section 239(1)(i)(ii) is taken to hold office as a member of the board under new section 239(1)(i)(ii).
- (2) Subsection (3) applies if—
 - (a) immediately before the commencement, the office of a member under former section 239(1)(c) was vacant; and
 - (b) before the commencement, QCEC had nominated a person for appointment to the office.
- (3) For the purpose of appointing a person to the office after the commencement, the nomination of the person by QCEC is taken to be the nomination of the person by CEQL.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies if—
 - (a) immediately before the commencement, the office of a member under former section 239(1)(i)(ii) was vacant; and
 - (b) before the commencement, QCEC and the Association of Independent Schools Queensland had nominated a person for appointment to the office.
- (5) For the purpose of appointing a person to the office after the commencement, the person is taken to be nominated jointly by CEQL and the Association of Independent Schools Queensland.

371 Notices given to QCEC before commencement

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) before the commencement, a notice was given under section 241 in relation to the nomination of a person under former section 239(1)(c) or (i)(ii); and
 - (b) immediately before the commencement, the stated time within which a nomination could be made had not ended.
- (2) The notice is taken to have been given to CEQL.

11 After part 3, heading

Page 44, after line 6—

insert—

Division 8 Amendment of Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016

39ZI Regulation amended

This division amends the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016*.

39ZJ Amendment of s 12A (Prescribed employing authorities—Act, s 67A)

Section 12A(b), 'QCEC'—

omit, insert—

CEQL

39ZK Amendment of s 12B (Prescribed employing authorities—Act, s 67J)

Section 12B(b), 'QCEC'—

omit, insert—

CEQL

39ZL Amendment of s 12C (Prescribed entities—Act, s 230B)

Section 12C(b) and (c), 'QCEC'—

omit, insert—

CEQL

39ZM Amendment of sch 1 (Fees)

Schedule 1, items 10(b), 11(b) and 12(b), 'QCEC'—

omit, insert—

CEQL

39ZN Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary)

- (1) Schedule 2, definition *QCEC*—

omit.

- (2) Schedule 2—

insert—

CEQL means Catholic Education Queensland Ltd ACN 689 899 223.

12 After part 3, heading

Page 44, after line 6—

insert—

Division 9 Amendment of Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014

39ZO Act amended

This division amends the *Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014*.

39ZP Amendment of s 13 (Testing)

Section 13(1)(g), 'QCEC'—

omit, insert—

CEQL

39ZQ Amendment of s 22 (Members)

Section 22(b)(ii)—

omit, insert—

- (ii) the chief executive officer, or nominee, of CEQL;

39ZR Amendment of s 67 (Disclosure to particular entities)

Section 67(3), definition *relevant entity*, paragraph (b), 'QCEC'—

omit, insert—

CEQL

39ZS Amendment of s 92 (Regulation-making power)

Section 92(3)(b), 'QCEC'—

omit, insert—

CEQL

39ZT Insertion of new pt 7, div 4

Part 7—

insert—

Division 4 Transitional provisions for Education (General Provisions) Amendment Act 2025**114 Definitions for division**

In this division—

former, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from time to time before the commencement.

new, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from the commencement.

QCEC means the Queensland Catholic Education Commission within the meaning of this Act as in force from time to time before the commencement.

115 Nominee etc. of QCEC appointed as member of authority before commencement

(1) This section applies to a person who, immediately before the commencement, held office as a member of the authority under former section 22(b)(ii).

(2) From the commencement, the person is taken to hold office as a member of the authority under new section 22(b)(ii).

116 QCEC request for aggregated student account information made before commencement

(1) This section applies if—

(a) before the commencement, the authority received a request from QCEC for aggregated student account information under former section 67; and

(b) immediately before the commencement, the authority had not given QCEC the information.

(2) From the commencement, new section 67 applies as if the request had been made by CEQL.

39ZU Amendment of sch 1 (Dictionary)

(1) Schedule 1, definition *QCEC*—

omit.

(2) Schedule 1—

insert—

CEQL means Catholic Education Queensland Ltd ACN 689 899 223.

13 After part 3, heading

Page 44, after line 6—

insert—

Division 10 Amendment of Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Regulation 2025**39ZV Regulation amended**

This division amends the *Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Regulation 2025*.

39ZW Amendment of s 152 (Aggregated student account information—Act, s 67)

Section 152(b)(ii), 'QCEC'—

omit, insert—

CEQL

14 After part 3, heading

Page 44, after line 6—

insert—

Division 11 Amendment of Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008**39ZX Act amended**

This division amends the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008*.

39ZY Amendment of s 145 (Commission guidelines)

Section 145(5)(c)—

omit, insert—

(c) Catholic Education Queensland Ltd ACN 689 899 223.

39ZZ Insertion of new s 159

After section 158—

insert—

159 Transitional provision for Education (General Provisions) Amendment Act 2025

(1) This section applies if, before the commencement, a commission guideline was given under former section 145(5) to the Queensland Catholic Education Commission.

(2) The commission guideline is taken to have been given to Catholic Education Queensland Ltd ACN 689 899 223.

(3) In this section—

former section 145(5) means section 145(5) as in force from time to time before the commencement.

Queensland Catholic Education Commission means the Queensland Catholic Education Commission within the meaning of former section 145(5).

15 After part 3, heading

Page 44, after line 6—

insert—

Division 12 Other amendments

Question put—That clause 40 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clause 40 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 16 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment, as circulated—

16 Amendment of long title

Long title, 'Education (General Provisions) Act 2006'—

omit, insert—

Child Safe Organisations Act 2024, the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017, the Education and Care Services Act 2013, the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Act 2011, the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Regulation 2022, the Education (Capital Assistance) Act 1993, the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005, the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016, the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014, the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Regulation 2025, the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008

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

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.02 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Morningside Railway Station



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (9.02 pm): I rise to talk about Morningside train station. I am going to give a similar speech to that of the member for Lytton, who talked about how she had found out by accident that her local Lindum station, on which she and her local community had been working for many years for an upgrade, was suddenly opened by Queensland Rail without any notice given to her and her community. Unfortunately, I have had the same experience after working for five years alongside my local community to get a much needed upgrade to Morningside station.

Morningside station has one of the highest number of commuters on the Cleveland line. For my local residents it is an absolutely critical station for accessing the north and south of our area. We have worked for five years to get these amazing upgrades: a full-length high-level platform, a new footbridge, more accessible parking, upgraded hearing augmentation loops and tactile ground surface indicators, upgraded security cameras and lighting, new wayfinding and platform signage, an upgraded station office and facilities, and secure bike storage lockers. My community has been so excited about this. They have been working alongside me, meeting with the minister and doing petitions on street corners. It was a community project.

Much to our surprise, on 9 September the CEO of Queensland Rail came and opened the new station and nobody knew anything about it. It was an insult that nobody bothered to acknowledge the community and everything they had put into it, including our local schools.

I thank the previous transport ministers who have always recognised the need for good, accessible public transport for our local area, especially for people with disability, those with prams and the elderly. They always listened. They came out. They looked at the correspondence and the petitions we put up. I am flat out getting an answer from the current transport minister and when I do it is usually pretty rude. I always pass those answers on to my constituents so that they know the disrespect the minister has for their needs.

Our biggest issue at the moment is that the lifts do not work. It is a new railway station and the lifts often do not work. The big issue is that when the lifts do not work there is nobody we can ring because the minister is not properly staffing Queensland Rail. If someone cannot catch the lift at the station then they cannot catch the train. That is literally thousands of people. I thank the minister for the answer to my question on notice, but I need an answer that will help my local residents.

(Time expired)

Central Queensland, Road Infrastructure



Mr G KELLY (Mirani—LNP) (9.05 pm): The Bruce Highway rightly gets plenty of attention—and it needs it—but across Central Queensland, and especially in my electorate of Mirani, there are many other roads in a far worse condition that rarely get a mention. Some of these sit within the Queensland Beef Corridors project. These roads carry world-class beef—the backbone of an industry worth \$1.7 billion to the national economy—yet anyone who has driven those roads knows how desperately they need sealing and upgrading.

My good friend the member for the Gregory knows these roads well and continues to advocate strongly for their repair. The Queensland Beef Corridors project shows what can be achieved when all levels of government work together. We have finally seen progress, with \$38 million released by the federal government to start early works.

In Mirani, 7.6 kilometres of the May Downs Road will finally be sealed and upgraded. The Duaringa Apis Creek Road is earmarked for future funding. That is welcome news, but it is just the start. The old Marlborough Sarina Road is sealed but it is crumbling under the heavy load of wind turbine transport. During the first stage of Clarke Creek Wind Farm it literally fell apart. Squadron Energy's \$1.6 million contribution will not go far. With stage 2 of Clarke Creek and two other renewable energy projects under construction, the damage will only worsen.

Taxpayers should not have to pay for roads destroyed by the vehicles for these projects that they were never built to carry. These are not just freight routes; they are lifelines. Two major feedlots on the Marlborough Sarina Road move more than 50,000 head of cattle every year. Families use the same roads to get their kids to school. In Clarke Creek, locals are even polling how many windscreens they have replaced because of gravel spray.

Upgrading these roads is not a luxury; it is essential for safety, productivity and fairness. Regional industries, families and communities rely on these roads every single day. It is time they received the same attention as the Bruce Highway and were fixed properly once and for all.

Drugs, Testing

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (9.08 pm): Sadly, after the disgraceful attack on democracy during the last sitting of the parliament, the government denied any debate and rammed through laws outlawing pill testing in this state. At the time they ignored all of the expert advice from medical professionals, police, paraprofessionals, parents and young people who all support a pill-testing program. We warned that this wrong ideological position would cost lives and it is with sadness that a second person has died after ingesting a deadly synthetic opioid. This comes just after the *Courier-Mail* revealed the drug had claimed its first life earlier this year, shortly after the pill-testing sites were shut down.

Queensland Health warned back in November 2024 that pills containing nitazene were circulating. Where did they get that information? It was from the CheQpoint service in my electorate that the government defunded, closed and banned. Loop Australia CEO Cameron Francis stated that this latest tragedy was a timely reminder of the benefits of drug testing. As we all know as parents and despite all the best advice, sometimes our loved ones make mistakes, and I do not believe for one second that someone deserves to die for a silly decision they made, including possibly during schoolies week. Let's hope that all our loved ones do not make those mistakes.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Ms GRACE: That is big talk from those opposite—big talk! Let's hope it does not come to your families and loved ones. As stated by the Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies' CEO, Rebecca Lang, a return to drug testing is essential to preventing overdoses and every overdose death is policy failure and leaves behind family and friends whose lives will never be the same. Queensland Health has issued a public health alert about a teddy bear appearance drug resembling MDMA. During its year of operation, CheQpoint issued 10 public alerts after detecting dangerous and potentially lethal substances.

Arguing that there is no safe way to take drugs is just rhetoric and puts your head in the sand. That does not justify ramming through laws, blocking access to potentially life-saving services. We have research that says that when someone comes to get a drug tested the first thing they say to them is, 'It is safer not to take the drug.' This is ideological rubbish. They said they would listen to the experts. They did nothing of the sort—

Mr MOLHOEK: Speaker—

Ms GRACE: Speaker, he is on his feet before time has expired.

Mr SPEAKER: The time has now expired. I made a ruling earlier that members are not to rise before time has expired.

Southport Electorate, Events

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (9.11 pm): I only stood up at one second to go. I rise to speak about the wonderful community-driven events—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are warned.

Mr MOLHOEK:—and initiatives taking place across my electorate of Southport over the past month. Recently I had the privilege of hosting a community grants workshop at my office with more than 30 local sporting clubs and groups, P&Cs and other community organisations. I want to especially thank Lyn Mansfield, a community member who helped host these workshops and provided the benefit of her many years of experience.

I am also pleased to announce that the Southport Chamber of Commerce recently re-formed the Chinatown Subcommittee with a focus of bringing activities back to the Southport CBD and Gold Coast's Chinatown. I particularly want to thank the committee—Stella Chen, Sherry Tong, Lavinia Rampino, Lisa Gay, Allan Godbee, Holly Liu, Ping Aspinall, Peter Cook and Gerard Robb—for the incredible work they did in hosting and organising our recent Mooncake Festival, complete with tea ceremonies, dragons and all the other sorts of activity and, of course, mooncake that you would expect to go hand in hand with such a wonderful event.

I also particularly want to say thanks to Baby Give Back, an incredible organisation supporting families in need and giving every child an equal start in life. My thanks especially go to Carly Fradgley, the CEO, and her dedicated team for hosting my recent visit to their facility on the coast, which is actually in the member for Burleigh's electorate. This organisation puts together hundreds, if not

thousands, of care parcels of clothing, nappies and other basic supplies for families, and they distribute them far and wide and into some of the most remote and far-flung parts of our great state of Queensland.

We also celebrated Queensland Gives' Gold Coast Community Foundation grants recipients recently and heard from the amazing James Frizelle and Trish Harris from the James Frizelle Charitable Foundation. I especially want to acknowledge them for their incredible generosity and the millions of dollars they are contributing to make our community a much better place. I especially acknowledge their recent gift of some \$20 million toward the St John Crisis Centre in Surfers Paradise for a DV shelter.

Algester Electorate, Southside Seniors Expo



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (9.14 pm): October is Queensland Seniors Month, a month to celebrate the contributions of older Queenslanders, support social connectedness and promote age-friendly communities across Queensland. As the shadow minister responsible for seniors in this state, on the first day of Queensland Seniors Month my Labor colleagues and I hosted the inaugural Southside Seniors Expo at Calamvale Community College. What an incredible day it was.

We were fortunate to be joined by the federal Treasurer and member for Rankin, the Hon. Jim Chalmers, and the federal aged-care minister, the Hon. Sam Rae, along with local state members of parliament including the Leader of the Opposition, who was given a very warm welcome to the neighbourhood, I have to say. My thanks go to my team, to the volunteers, to the members for Stretton, Toohey, Mansfield and Inala and to the local councillors for Calamvale and Moorooka for their commitment to helping make the day such a huge success.

More than 100 local organisations, businesses and community groups registered to host a stall at the expo, offering valuable information, advice and services to help seniors stay active, connected and supported. A highlight, of course, was the RACQ mobile members unit—a full-sized truck which can accommodate one-on-one meetings for any insurance purposes. I know many participants enjoyed having the chance to speak directly with the RACQ team and have their insurance and banking questions addressed onsite.

With around 700 seniors attending from across the southside, and some as far away as Ninderry and Hatton Vale, the hall was a hub of activity. Feedback from participants for this inaugural event was terrific. Deborah from Ninderry said it was excellent. Mohammad from Drewvale said, 'Couldn't be better.' Brandan said, 'A very well done event. I enjoyed it very much.' Maurice from Acacia Ridge said, 'You did well, really well. It's a great expo.' Trish from Hillcrest said, 'It was great, informative.' Wendee from Acacia Ridge said, 'Excellent event, well done.'

I give a huge shout-out also to Mike Butler and the Volunteer Connect crew for running the sausage sizzle, to Sue Ann from Checkmate Pest Control for sponsoring the sausages and to Jenny Kim and the Coffee Cabin team for keeping us caffeinated. The Parkinson Ukulele Group, also known as PUG, added a touch of music to the morning with a number of performances. Attendees heard from National Seniors Australia about their advocacy work, concessions and tips to save and from Scamwatch on preventing fraud and online scams. The Australian Financial Complaints Authority provided information about financial protections and dispute resolution, and the Office of Fair Trading informed attendees of their consumer rights and how to stay informed and protected.

There was a huge number of sponsors, including National Seniors Australia, Transurban, Grand Plaza, the RED Team and Swanborough Funerals, and many others donated an incredible number of prizes. It was a fantastic event. We are looking forward to doing it again. The Labor opposition values the contribution of our senior community members, and Labor will always support our seniors.

(Time expired)

Mackay Electorate, Business Achievements



Mr DALTON (Mackay—LNP) (9.17 pm): It is always a pleasure and privilege to rise in this House to speak about the remarkable people and places that make up our vibrant community in Mackay, a region built on resilience, opportunity and a deep belief in the potential of young people. From young apprentices picking up the tools for the first time to ambitious locals launching their own businesses, Mackay is a place where talent is nurtured and hard work is recognised.

Earlier this year I had the pleasure of visiting Intuition the Art of Hair alongside the assistant minister, Amanda Stoker, and recently I returned to see their continued success firsthand. This local

small business, led by the inspiring Victoria with her manager Kate and training coordinator Courtney, has created far more than a salon; they have built a community of learning and growth. Intuition the Art of Hair was recently named Small Employer of the Year at both the regional and the state levels and is now heading off to represent Queensland on the national stage. This is a phenomenal achievement and a shining example of what is possible when you invest in people.

What stood out to me the most to me during my visit was not just the trophies on the shelf but the confidence and the pride of the apprentices. I spoke with several of them—all at different stages of their training. One thing was clear: they felt supported, valued and part of the family. In fact, I even had my hair cut by Casey, a first-year apprentice.

A government member: Really?

Mr DALTON: Yes.

Mr Field: It wouldn't take long!

Mr DALTON: I know it is hard. It is not like the Deputy Premier's. No.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DALTON: Thank you. Casey would be proud. She had just completed her first men's haircut and she did a fantastic job. It is those real-world experiences that help our young people gain the skills and confidence they need to succeed. Intuition the Art of Hair—no, I will not say it—shows what success looks like when small business, training and community come together. It is about more than just skills; it is about belief, mentorship and opportunity.

To Victoria and the team at Intuition: thank you for being an inspiring example of leadership in business. They are not just styling hair; they are shaping futures. To every apprentice across Mackay, whether it is hairdressing, engineering or trades, I say this: Mackay believes in you, I believe in you and under the Crisafulli government we will keep backing you every step of the way from school to training to small business ownership and, one day, to owning your own business, because we invest in young people and we invest in Queensland. I could not be prouder of Mackay.

Motor Neurone Disease



Mr J KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.21 pm): From 6 pm last night to 6 pm tonight I participated in 'Quiet Please for MND and Me'. I stayed silent with just a few slips, using only an app to communicate—and it was incredibly hard. With the exception of Hansard reporters, we all speak and think much faster than we type. Even though it was only for 24 hours, I did find myself getting a bit lonely at times. I changed my behaviour and avoided some events because it was just too hard to be in a group where you are the only one not able to speak. Ordering meals and asking for help was slow and difficult—and it felt weird. I really missed saying good night and good morning to my wife and daughters. This was tough for me today, but many people who live with motor neurone disease face this reality every single day.

This morning I met Gina and Leanne. Gina is related to my great friend Grace Grace and, like Grace, she could talk. She could not move any other parts of her body, but this retired teacher has learned how to use communication devices and has illustrated kids' books. Leanne was a personal trainer and she had lots of tips for the member for Miller, who showed up in his cycling gear. She uses communication devices for all of her interactions. We communicated in the same manner and at the same speed. Leanne was the only person I had an equal communication with over the last 24 hours and, because of this, I kept gravitating back to Leanne to speak with her on equal terms. She is also an author and has written a motivational book.

The MND and Me Foundation was started in 2010 by Scott Sullivan to raise money in his community for research and support services. I particularly want to thank Easts Rugby Union and the other sporting clubs that have so actively supported this group. Scott has passed away but his legacy lives on. This organisation has literally raised millions and millions of dollars for research.

Every single day in Australia two people are diagnosed with motor neurone disease and two people lose their lives to it. MND is a devastating terminal disease that takes away movement, independence and, for many, the ability to speak. The MND and Me Foundation, a proud Queensland and Coorparoo charity, is working tirelessly to ensure no Queenslanders face MND alone. Through its programs it provides the right solutions at the right time at no cost.

One of its most impactful programs is Communication Connect, a program that provides fully funded communication devices such as iPads with text-to-speech apps, eye-gaze technology and

NeuroNode devices. These devices can cost over \$20,000. If I learned nothing today, I learned how crucial these devices are for people with MND. So I want to thank everyone across the parliament for their support, particularly Mr Speaker, the health minister, the shadow health minister and Steven Miles, the Leader of the Opposition. I particularly want to thank the Manager of Opposition Business and the shadow whip for not just allowing me to do it but supporting it. I want to thank the MND and Me Foundation, particularly Cheyenne. I really want to thank Gina and Leanne. You two are amazing and special beyond belief. You will always have my support for people who are living with MND.

Mr SPEAKER: It is a truly great cause.

Don River Dash

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.24 pm): More than 19,200 visitor nights, over \$4.2 million in economic stimulus and visitors from every mainland state in Australia as well as the United States—those are the results of the 2025 Custom Lithium Don River Dash recently held in Bowen. From its beginning in 2019, the Don River Dash has achieved spectacular growth and is now a must-do fixture on the Australian off-road racing calendar. In fact, the Don River Dash is now spoken of in the same terms as the iconic Finke Desert Race, and for some competitors it is now the signature event of its type in Australia. You could liken it to the off-road version of Bathurst. It is getting up there. While the event itself ran from 5 to 7 September the impact on Queensland's economy and the Bowen region was, and will be, felt for much, much longer.

This year, 2025, saw the expansion of the event's school visitation program, with organisers, volunteers and competitors visiting every school in the Bowen district. According to the competitors, the welcome at each school could only be described as overwhelming, with students lining up for autographs and waiting in line to have their photo taken on bikes and cars that would later thunder up and down the bed of the Don River. In addition to the economic and social benefits, the 2025 event continued the tradition of adopting a social impact partner. Real Mates Talk, thanks to the Don River Dash, was not only provided with a fundraising opportunity but also an almost immeasurable opportunity to encourage conversations and remove the stigma surrounding mental health.

I spoke earlier of the results, but I neglected one important result. On the Friday I joined Clayton Chapman for a hot lap of the course, and of course Clayton would go on to win the race the next day. According to his Facebook post, he commented that without my help he would not have found a fault that he had with his vehicle. As a consequence, he fixed it overnight and that resulted in him winning the event the next day.

Finding fault with the Don River Dash is something I challenge any member to do. Events like this have a huge impact on regional Queensland communities and tourism across the state. That event was live streamed into the US to an audience of several million people. It is growing in popularity, and a huge thank you must go to the volunteers and sponsors who make this great event possible, including Custom Lithium, a proud Queensland manufacturer. I am proud to continue my support of this great event, and the Minister for Environment and Tourism can look forward to my request for long-term funding to support this iconic event as it continues to grow and provide benefits for the community in the years to come. To all those members here, if you want a fun weekend watching motorbikes and off-road vehicles going up and down the Don River at Bowen, then I would thoroughly recommend it.

March for Australia

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (9.26 pm): I will be attending the March for Australia march in Brisbane this Sunday. When I considered it, one of my motivations for doing this was that, knowing that it would attract a lot of criticism, a lot of people are going to try and characterise you and call you names because you do it. It is something that I feel is reaffirming Australian culture. We have values and we want to stoically say that I think there is value in the culture we have become accustomed to in this country and that is worth preserving. If that attracts criticism, then I think it becomes important that the right people are standing up in front of the crowds to say, 'This is important to us.'

That is not to say that KAP is anti-immigration. Of course it has been part of our history, but we are anti mass unchecked immigration. I have never agreed with this indiscriminate approach to immigration. Of course I think it should be discriminatory. I think there are a lot of people who disagree in this progressive world today that it should not discriminate at all. Of course it should. If there are people coming to the country who want to go into enclaves and do not want to assimilate with the fine things we have become accustomed to in this country and they have this hostility towards our country

where we see our flag being burned, surely that is a bit of a problem and you would want to try and limit that impact and its influence in your country. There is nothing wrong with that and we are seeing it in other parts of Europe. It is not being done from a deliberate point of aggression or hostility; it is from a peaceful, stoic position to say 'No, this is firmly how we see the future of Australia. It has been good to us.'

We are built on those Judeo-Christian values that people get sort of uncomfortable talking about now. There has been a direct correlation with the decline of people on the census form ticking Christian or that they identify as Christian, the breakdown of family units here in Australia and the breakdown of many things in society, so it is something to be chastised, but I think it is a good foundation. Which is not to say that everyone has to go to church; it is just that there are some values in there that we have become accustomed to that set a pretty good foundation for our society. That is a good thing to celebrate and it is something I am pretty proud to stand beside.

If I went to another country and they had other customs and other ways to live, I would try to appreciate that and assimilate and fit in with them because that is how they do it. I am not going to go over there and burn their flag and say, 'You've got to change because we're like this.' I would not do that and we should expect the same thing over here. We should be encouraged to wave our flag and call it out when it is getting burnt on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. However, people are getting scared to call that out and they are saying, 'You can't do that because you'll be characterised as Neo-Nazi or something else'—just because you want to reaffirm those values. I will be there and I hope a lot of other people will be there to make a peaceful, stoic stand for Australian values.

Theodore Electorate, Anzac Day Memorials; 725 Bus Route; Bushfire Preparedness

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (9.29 pm): Anzac Day is a watershed moment in our nation's history. This day symbolises the anniversary of the first significant military action undertaken by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. It serves as a reminder of the bravery and sacrifice demonstrated by our service men and women. I have previously spoken in this chamber about the relocation of the Maudsland dawn service from the Coomera CWA hall to Cliff Bird Park. As part of the Crisafulli government's commitment, we have allocated \$500,000 to construct a new cenotaph at Cliff Bird Park and undertake additional works at the Tallowood Park cenotaph. This investment underscores our dedication to honour our veterans by providing a dignified space for remembrance.

Geoff Benson, a local veteran, has been the heart and soul of the dawn service in Maudsland for the past 18 years. He has recently met with the Gold Coast City council officers and Councillor Peter Young to discuss the layout and design of the new memorial. I am grateful for Geoff's leadership and I am pleased to report that the Gold Coast City council officers will begin the design works based on his vision. In addition, council officers will collaborate with the Coomera Valley Rotary Club to further enhance the Tallowood Park cenotaph, building on the extensive works already undertaken by the department of Main Roads.

I also want to express my gratitude to residents who supported the petition to modify the 725 bus service. This petition requests that the bus service be extended to include streets such as Brygon Creek Drive, Ghostgum Grove, Lauren Grove and Riverbrooke Drive, thereby providing a service for residents from the Seachange Lifestyle Resort, Palm Lake Resort Upper Coomera and the Regis Magnolia aged-care facility. I give a big special thanks to Kevin Holman for his strong advocacy on this issue.

Finally, as fire season is almost upon us, especially with the recent dry period we have had in South-East Queensland, it is now time for residents to prepare their properties for the upcoming fire season. Please, take the time to clear debris from your roofs and gutters and clean up your yards to make sure your house is fire safe. Also, please ensure that your driveways are safe for rural fire brigade trucks to traverse. That is an issue we constantly see. You need to keep your driveways clean to ensure Rural Fire Service volunteers can get to your property safely.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, 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, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young