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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 18 November 2026

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WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2026

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: Honourable members, on 27 October 2026 the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services wrote to me alleging that the member for Macalister misled the House on 15 September 2026. The minister alleged that the member made deliberately misleading comments in relation to the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026, particularly the Staying on Track program. The member for Macalister identified the basis of her statement as the evidence of the director-general during the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's hearing of 17 July 2026.

While there may be an underlying dispute about policy interpretation and the impact of a new legislative provision, I consider the member for Macalister has made an adequate explanation and I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I wish to stress that, in making this ruling, I make no finding as to the correctness or otherwise of the member's assessment of the director-general's evidence. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. 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 27 October 2026, the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services wrote to me alleging that the member for Macalister misled the House on 15 September 2026.

The matter relates to a statement by the member for Macalister during the debate on the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026 (the Bill).

Specifically, the member said:

"Some of these kids are not going to be eligible for the back on track program. That came across in the hearings, so there is going to be a transition that is not part of it. It may be for some, but not all. It does not matter what you do out there, if there is no transition and reintegration when they get back to where they are going it has been a waste of time and money."

The Minister argued that the member's statement was inconsistent with both the Bill and the evidence provided by the Director-General during the committee process. She advised that proposed section 282P(2) (c) of the Youth Justice Act (the Act) expressly requires Circuit Breaker programs to include activities and programs supporting a youth's reintegration into the community. The Minister further submitted that the member's suggestion that some participants would experience a gap in transition and reintegration support fails to reflect the mandatory arrangements established by the Bill and explained to the committee. The Minister advised that as a member of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, the member for Macalister had direct knowledge of this.

I sought further information from the member for Macalister about the allegation that has been made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The member submitted that she was relying on the evidence of the Director-General during the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's hearing into the Bill. The Director-General stated:

"It stands to reason that many of the eligible cohort for this program will have Staying on Track eligibility—be that because of short-term stints in remand or they have been remanded to reappear in court before the Circuit Breaker Order occurs."

The member submitted that the Director-General's use of the word 'many' instead of 'all' indicated that not all youth will be eligible for the Staying on Track program. She also submitted that use of the term 'eligible cohort' implies there must be a cohort that is ineligible.

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.

While there may be an underlying disagreement about the impact of new section 282P(2)(c) of the Act, I find that the member has been able to provide a basis for her statement, being the Director-General's evidence. She explained in her submission why she came to the conclusion that she did.

I consider the member for Macalister has made an adequate explanation and I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I wish to stress that in making this ruling I make no finding as to the correctness or otherwise of the member's assessment of the Director-General's evidence.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the member for Macalister.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 23 October 2026 the then minister for families, seniors and disability services and minister for child safety and the prevention of domestic and family violence wrote to me alleging that the member for Cooper deliberately misled the House on 17 September 2026. The statement by the member related to the government's programs for perpetrators of domestic and family violence. The minister advised me that the department maintains a list of Queensland government funded specialist support services for people affected by domestic and family violence on its publicly available website, including perpetrator intervention programs. The member argued that these services were not adequate to meet demand.

I consider this a political dispute on government policy relating to perpetrator programs. The subject matter is not trivial, but the member was obviously engaged in political puffery. I do not think it sufficiently serious to be escalated. 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. 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 23 October 2026, the then Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence wrote to me alleging that the member for Cooper deliberately misled the House on 17 September 2026

The matter relates to statements made by the member during Private Members' Statements.

Specifically, the member for Cooper said:

'We have next to no DV perpetrator programs operating in this state.'

The Minister submitted that the member's statement was false and advised that the department maintains a list of Queensland Government funded specialist support services for people affected by domestic and family violence on its publicly available website. She highlighted the organisations on that list that support perpetrator intervention programs across Queensland.

I sought further information from the member for Cooper about the allegation that has been made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The member submitted that it was made clear in the progress reports of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (WSJT) recommendation progress reports that perpetrator programs were insufficient. She noted that a lack of updating on these recommendations or the status of the programs means that the situation must remain the same. She also noted that in her role as Shadow Assistant Minister for Women she has had stakeholders raise the lack of perpetrator intervention programs with her, and the programs that are available have considerable wait times.

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.

The Minister advised me that the department maintains a list of Queensland Government funded specialist support services for people affected by domestic and family violence on its publicly available website, including perpetrator intervention programs. The member submitted that these services were not adequate to meet demand.

I consider this a political dispute on government policy relating to perpetrator programs. The subject matter is clearly not trivial, but raising it as a matter of privilege is.

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

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the member for Cooper.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Absence of Minister

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have received advice from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads that he will be absent from the House for today's sitting. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

Parliament House, Artwork

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, two more works from the Regional Council Artwork Collection are on display in the chamber this week. The collection was originally assembled in 1979 to celebrate the completion of the Parliamentary Annexe and features artworks representing communities across Queensland. The first work, *Cane Cutters with Wash Basin*, is by Tom McAulay. Born in Innisfail in 1946, McAulay established himself as a prominent Queensland artist, exhibiting widely and receiving several major art awards throughout the 1970s. His work often explored Queensland's people, landscapes and history. This artwork was donated by the Johnstone Shire Council, which is now part of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council.

The second work is *Summer Morning—Lake Borumba* by artist Terrence Tomlin. Born in Gayndah in 1935, Tomlin was a self-taught artist who developed a distinctive painting technique using coloured mineral sands from the Cooloola Coast. His work reflects the landscapes and natural materials of the region. This artwork was donated by the Widgee Shire Council, which is now part of the Gympie Regional Council.

All artworks previously displayed in the chamber are now on display on level 5 of the Parliamentary Annexe. I encourage all Queenslanders to explore these artworks online and discover more about the Regional Council Artwork Collection through parliament's online heritage collection. Next sitting week, we will feature another two artworks as we continue to showcase the regional Queensland communities represented in the chamber.

Distinguished Visitors

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise of the presence in the public gallery today of a delegation of four staff from the Parliament of South Australia and one staff member from the Parliament of Victoria who are undertaking a staff attachment program with the Queensland parliament over this sitting week.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following e-petition, sponsored by the honourable member indicated—

Heathwood, Bus Stop

Hon. Enoch, from 268 petitioners, requesting the House to call on the Department of Transport and Main Roads to provide an eastbound bus stop on Johnson Road, Heathwood, opposite existing stop 320037, including any necessary pedestrian safety infrastructure.

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

Road Rules, Review

917 petitioners, requesting the House to request the Government review Queensland's current road rules regarding left turns at red traffic lights.

Leaf Street Swanbank, Development Application

1,633 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately elevate the Leaf Street Swanbank application from "code assessment" to "impact assessment," requiring mandatory public notification, a 30-day submission period, and full appeal rights.

Data Centres, Public Reporting

1,574 petitioners, requesting the House to mandate full economic disclosure and public reporting for all data centre proposals.

Data Centres, Approvals

1,670 petitioners, requesting the House to impose an immediate moratorium on new AI Data Centre approvals until a comprehensive statewide impact assessment is completed.

Domestic Cats

1,698 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 to mandate full 24-hour domestic cat containment (through confinement to the property or secure outdoor catios) as a statewide minimum standard.

Petitions received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Productivity

Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.07 pm): Our government is delivering a stronger, more productive Queensland economy. To build the hospitals, roads, schools and homes that Queensland needs, we must restore productivity to this state. That is why one of our first actions in government was to end Labor's Best Practice Industry Conditions. BPICs drove up construction costs, undermined productivity and made it harder to build the homes and infrastructure Queenslanders need.

The independent Queensland Productivity Commission confirmed the scale of the challenge. It found construction productivity had fallen by nine per cent since 2018, contributing to 77,000 fewer homes being built. We are taking steps to reform the industry: cutting red tape, improving licensing, strengthening competition and reforming government procurement. Following the interim findings of the CFMEU commission of inquiry, we have introduced the new Construction Productivity Code. It will ensure safe, lawful and productive workplaces to deliver projects on time and on budget.

Today, the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show Queensland is leading the nation. In 2025-26 Queensland recorded economic growth of 3.1 per cent. That is the strongest of any state in Australia. We were the only jurisdiction which recorded positive growth in every sector of the economy in 2025-26. Importantly, we are seeing a significant turnaround in productivity growth. In Labor's last financial year the ABS data showed Queensland's productivity declined by 1.2 per cent. Now in our first full year, that figure has turned around with productivity growing by 1.5 per cent. It is the strongest result of any mainland state and almost double the national figure of 0.8 per cent. These figures mean we can deliver on our record investment in our infrastructure pipeline. From the Bruce Highway upgrade program, the Wave on the Sunshine Coast, the GC Surfer, the extension of light rail and Country Roads Connect, we are improving connections for Queensland businesses and communities. Through our Hospital Rescue Plan we are delivering more beds and better health care, supporting a healthier and more productive workforce.

Today's figures are encouraging, but there is so much more work to do. Our government will keep delivering the reforms needed to build a stronger, more productive Queensland.

His Excellency the Governor

Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.10 pm): On Sunday, 1 November Queensland marked a significant milestone with the swearing-in of His Excellency the Hon. Thomas Joseph Bradley AC, KC as our state's 28th Governor. I want to congratulate His Excellency on his appointment and wish him and his partner, Dr Yoong, every success.

The Governor has special capacity to draw our state's communities closer, helping us recognise the bonds we share as Queenslanders. I have no doubt that His Excellency's professional experience and his commitment to cultural and community life will serve him well in undertaking his duties as Queensland's Governor. I also again thank the Hon. Dr Jeannette Young for her years of service to this state.

Economy

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.11 pm): The ABS has today released the annual state accounts figures for the first full financial year of the Crisafulli government. Today I will share five reasons Queensland is the place to be. One, Queensland is the fastest growing state economy in Australia. Queensland's total gross state product is 3.1 per cent, up from 2.2 per cent. We are outperforming the national average, which has been dragged down by New South Wales and Victoria—despite them taking our gas and our fair share of the GST, I might add.

Two, Queensland has the best productivity growth of Australian mainland states. GSP per capita is 1.5 per cent and almost double the national 0.8 per cent. In contrast, in Labor's last part year of government productivity was negative 0.5 per cent. Notably, the key drivers of Queensland's nation-leading economic performance are coal and construction. Our productivity growth is fuelled by increased coal production and increased export demand. That is because, unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government supports the resources sector. After the former government's CFMEU tax smashed productivity in the construction industry, we have set about restoring it. Construction growth in Queensland has been driven by residential construction, which reflects our commitment to increase supply to fix Labor's housing crisis.

Three, the ABS figures reveal Queensland is the only jurisdiction to record production growth in every sector of the economy—from the arts to resources, from science to agriculture. Four, Queensland's taxation per capita is $826 less than the average of other jurisdictions, with Queenslanders paying $1,194 less tax than New South Wales residents and $1,178 less than Victorians. Five, CommBank's latest State of the States report has said that we are the best performing economy in the country. CommBank said that despite Labor's legacy of debt, deficit and deception, the Crisafulli government's open-for-business approach has lifted Queensland from fifth place after Labor's final budget to No. 1 on the economic leaderboard.

Today's figures confirm the Crisafulli government's approach is paying dividends: the fastest economic growth of all states, the best productivity growth of mainland Australian states, the only state to record production growth in every sector of the economy, lower tax per capita than the average of other jurisdictions, and No. 1 in the State of the States report. All of this is despite the legacy of those opposite, despite the volatility wrought from conflict in the Middle East and despite the cost shifting out of Canberra onto the states and Jim Chalmers's refusal to give Queensland their fair share of the GST.

We are animating productivity, but we know that there is more work to do. We are providing the taxation and regulatory certainty and stability to prove that Queensland is open for business.

Women, Gender Pay Gap; Thornton, Dr M

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) (2.14 pm): Today, the Workplace Gender Equality Agency released new data for six million Australians across more than 9,000 organisations. It shows that for the first time Australia's gender pay gap has fallen below 20 per cent to 19.7 per cent. Queensland's average gap from the same survey is, in fact, 19.6 per cent, which is 2.3 percentage points lower than two years ago. The WGEA's analysis of wider ABS data also shows that Queensland's gender pay gap on average in a full-time working week sits at 10.7 per cent. As Minister for Women and Queensland's first Minister for Women's Economic Security, I am encouraged by this progress. We know there is more work to do, but these results show why the Crisafulli government's focus on backing Queensland women and women's economic security is so important.

This is an historic week for another reason. Sixty years ago today the Commonwealth marriage bar ended—that is, a rule forcing women out of the Public Service when they married, and Queensland followed suit in 1969. That was thanks to the campaigning of an extraordinary Queensland woman, Dr Merle Thornton. On Monday, the Premier and I unveiled a statue of Dr Merle Thornton outside 1 William Street together with her children, Harold and Sigrid Thornton.

Many Queenslanders know Merle from her Regatta Hotel protest in 1965, fighting for women to be allowed to fully participate in the social life of this country. Her greatest impact was in her work to ensure women could fully participate economically. Merle saw a bar you could not drink at; she saw a bar you could not walk past. Dr Merle Thornton took on both and she raised the bar for Queensland.

The Crisafulli government is committed to carrying on the work with Queensland's first Women's Economic Security Strategy focusing on the key pillars of financial knowledge, economic participation and leadership. We are providing practical, tangible support through programs like the Women's Career grants, which have already helped over 2,100 women overcome the financial barriers to returning to work.

I also acknowledge the new construction code which will provide more opportunities for Queensland women in construction and safer workplaces, unlike what we saw under Labor with the CFMEU and BPIC thuggerising opportunities and making it unsafe for women. The Crisafulli LNP government will continue working hard to deliver for all Queensland as we back women to build a stronger financial future.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.18 pm): The Crisafulli government is charging full steam ahead when it comes to the delivery of generational infrastructure across the state including venues for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. After 1,200 days of Labor chaos and crisis failing to deliver a clear plan for the games—they still do not have a clear plan after two years in opposition—we are getting on with the job of delivering this generational infrastructure that will have a lasting legacy. It is not just games infrastructure; it is roads, rail, schools and hospitals—it is a $119 billion infrastructure spend in the next four years.

Just this week I stood with The Veronicas, two of Queensland's icons for our brand new arena. Since I made that announcement there is so much excitement right across Queensland because people will not have to go to Boondall Entertainment Centre when this new arena is built. They will not get their backside caught in the dodgy seats at Boondall any longer. The only one I can find opposed to this new arena is the Leader of the Opposition. He absolutely criticised it yesterday, criticised the private sector, criticised the announcement that I made with the Veronicas. It got me thinking—

Mr O'Connor: Why does he hate the Veronicas?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection: why does the opposition leader hate the Veronicas? It did get me thinking why he would hate the Veronicas, and then I realised why: in 2005 the Veronicas had a hit song and I think it triggers the Leader of the Opposition, because it is called *Everything I'm Not* and it goes like this—

Mr O'Connor: Don't sing it.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am not going to sing it. It goes like this—

Oh no

Don't go changing

That's what you told me from the start

Thought you were something different

That's when it all just fell apart

It sums up the opposition in Queensland at the moment—the games chaos, the games crisis—and it sums up that everything is just falling apart in the Labor Party.

We have announced Queensland's very own 17,000-seat indoor arena with Gather Brisbane as the major consortium that will design, build, finance, operate and maintain the facility ready for the 2032 games. This means that Queenslanders will no longer miss out on the major international entertainers who come to Australia and they will no longer have to battle the traffic at Boondall, which, under Labor, has become an aged asset reaching its end of life because it never maintained it. The former Labor government told Queenslanders that it was going to build an arena on top of the Roma Street station, changed the location twice and were then going to use Queensland taxpayers' money to foot the bill at a cost of $2.5 billion. The Crisafulli government, by contrast, has partnered with the private sector to deliver an amazing legacy for Brisbane and an amazing legacy for Queensland, with a world-class venue steps away from a major public transport hub which will anchor a precinct furnished by 4,000 new homes, restaurants, bars and public open space.

It is disappointing that, with all of this construction, whether it is the games, the events, the stadium, the National Aquatic Centre, the Labor opposition is opposed to it. This construction is creating thousands of jobs for Queenslanders. It is leading to the productivity increases the Treasurer announced this morning. I want to thank every worker who is on every construction site in Queensland, because the LNP is now the party of workers in Queensland. We are the party that wants to grow the workforce in the construction industry, not those opposite. They are just opposing everything in the construction industry.

The government's investment in generational infrastructure also includes the 63,000-seat Brisbane Stadium at Victoria Park where the Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and I were this morning when we announced that in the first 100 days since early works commenced more than 200,000 cubic metres of earth and rock have been moved, the equivalent of 80 Olympic sized swimming pools. This significant milestone marks another key moment in our progress to deliver the generational infrastructure that Queenslanders can be proud of and of which they wanted the fresh start they voted for at the election. These early works will continue to reshape the Victoria Park precinct until

the middle of next year, when construction of the new stadium will commence shortly after. It will go from a park used by a few to a destination enjoyed by thousands, and here is the kicker: during consultation of the draft Victoria Park masterplan precinct legacy more than 42,000 people visited the webpage, with three in four responders confirming that they would utilise Victoria Park more as a result of the work our government is doing to enliven and revitalise the park in Brisbane. Some have said we are indeed saving Victoria Park. The legacy plan envisions better connections, more green space, more public areas and opportunities for dining and entertainment, setting up the precinct for generations to come.

Finally, yesterday the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority wrote to me in the afternoon after we announced the Queensland Construction Productivity Code 2026, which kicked off after being implemented yesterday. GIICA wrote to me requesting that the 17 minor and major venues that GIICA is delivering for the games in 2032 now be included in the code and I have responded with a yes, because we want productivity on our Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure build and we want safe workplaces. I was proud to be joined by the associations representing the construction industries this morning. Moreover, I was proud to be joined by the National Association of Women in Construction, which said this code will be good for women in construction and will lead to more women apprentices being protected by the code, unlike what happened over the former 10 years when women were abused physically and sexually by CFMEU members on construction sites and the Labor government at the time turned a blind eye to it. They should all hang their heads in shame and be ashamed of their record.

Health System and Construction Industry, Workforces

Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.24 pm): You cannot run a hospital without nurses and you cannot build one without tradies. Labor's decade of decline left Queensland desperately short of both. Rural and remote communities faced persistent nurse shortages and one in five health workers was getting ready to retire. That is Labor's legacy—a healthcare workforce on the brink of collapse—but the Crisafulli LNP government is rebuilding the workforce that Queensland needs. This year we delivered 2,000 free diploma of nursing places, putting more students on the path to becoming enrolled nurses. We flagged in this year's budget that free nursing would continue in 2027 at the same time as we provided another $1.6 billion in the budget to help secure the pipeline of skilled workers to build Queensland's future, because we must keep rebuilding our workforce after Labor's decade of decline.

That is why the Crisafulli LNP government has now announced another 2,000 free nursing places for next year, with applications now open to study nursing for free at TAFE Queensland, Mater Education or CQUniversity. That is right: you can apply now for a free nursing place, member for Murrumba, but you might need to work on your bedside manner though. This is yet another way we are unlocking rewarding career paths for people like Fran, who dreamed of becoming a nurse from the age of six. Free nursing removed the biggest barrier to Fran achieving her dream. She graduated in July and went straight into work as an enrolled nurse at North West Private Hospital. We know that when you give someone a hand up they will grab it with both hands and do us proud, just like Fran. As a former nurse and hospital administrator, I know the life-changing difference nurses make. It is so much more than a job; it is a calling, and our government is giving thousands more Queenslanders the chance to answer that call. For the students who take up those free nursing places, it means a huge cost-of-living relief. They will be focused on their studies, not worrying about how they will pay for the next semester. More broadly, it will provide a huge boost to our health front line as we continue to deliver the services Queenslanders deserve when and where they need them.

Labor left our health workforce on life support and our construction industry under the boot of the CFMEU, but the Crisafulli government is rebuilding the pipeline of tradies that our state needs, with nearly 32,000 students receiving free construction training in the past financial year. We want more Queenslanders starting apprenticeships, finishing them and getting into work. Our new TradieStart incentive and expanded Small Business Apprenticeship Program will support another 4,500 construction apprenticeships, including extra support for employers who hire female apprentices, because we are backing women to get into construction and we are seeing more female Queenslanders get on the tools than ever before. Under Labor women were leaving the construction industries at alarming rates. At the same time we saw reports of a toxic, male-dominated culture. We have made it clear that time's up for the CFMEU's era of vile threats, sexual harassment and bullying and we have made it clear that time is up for BPIC blowouts which cost taxpayers billions. Those opposite have made it clear that time's up for the member for Murrumba as the Leader of the Opposition.

Health System, Workforce

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.28 pm): The Crisafulli government's record $35.5 billion health budget is delivering the funding needed to grow the health workforce. Despite the baseless and shameful fear campaign from those opposite, more than 10,000 new health workers are now delivering care to Queenslanders across the state. We have achieved this not just through the record health funding but also by tackling Labor's record high attrition rate of over 6½ per cent in our health workforce. Beyond these figures are the hardworking health staff who deserve recognition for their work in our large and complex health system that is under significant strain due to ongoing bed shortages.

The former Labor government failed to build the hospital beds Queensland needs, and we continue to feel and see the consequences of that decline today. The impacts of Labor's bed shortages are, of course, made worse each day by the more than 1,400 stranded Australians who are in acute hospital beds—stranded Australians waiting for Commonwealth aged care, NDIS or disability supports. Despite these challenges, our tireless frontline workers continue to turn up to deliver the best care they can to Queenslanders. Over the last two years more than 10,000 Queenslanders have swelled their ranks. They want to work for Queensland Health. They want to work in a system focused on delivering care.

Yesterday, the AMA Queensland 2026 voluntary Hospital Health Check survey of doctors showed some positive results. Queensland Health achieved an overall grade of B-minus for the second consecutive year—up from C-plus in 2024 under the former government. However, there is more to do after a decade of decline under Labor, and these green shoots are not a signal for us to slow down. In fact, we are speeding up. We are hiring more doctors, more nurses, more midwives, allied health professionals and people to support them than ever before.

The Hospital Rescue Plan is going from strength to strength, delivering more beds and new facilities to remedy Labor's decade of decline and stalled progress. Let's not forget where we started. Under Labor's last budget, more than 1,700 health workers were set to be cut, and Labor left our rural and remote communities with a 21 per cent medical workforce gap. Labor's Workforce Strategy, released in the dying months of a dying government, left critical challenges unresolved and it did not even include the Queensland Ambulance Service in its strategy. On this side of the House, we are healing Labor's health crisis. That is our job. That is what we are getting on with doing—record health funding, more hospital beds and more frontline workers to deliver easier and better access to Queenslanders throughout the state.

Victims Advocate Service

Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.31 pm): I am proud to update the House on another significant milestone the Crisafulli government is delivering to put victims first. Last night this parliament passed legislation to establish Queensland's nation-leading Victims Advocate Service. This service is another significant election commitment we are delivering and a major step forward for victims of crime across Queensland.

For too long victims of crime were left to navigate a complex and fragmented justice system, often at the most traumatic time of their lives. Victims have told us that they want someone to turn to, someone who will listen, provide guidance and help them access the support they need when they need it. That is exactly what our Victims Advocate Service will deliver—a dedicated, one-stop shop for victims of crime with a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week call centre and online hub providing a central point of contact for victims to access the information, guidance and support they need. The service will help victims navigate the justice system, connect them with existing support services and ensure they receive assistance when they need it. It will be up and running by the end of the year. Importantly, it will reduce the number of times victims are forced to relive their trauma by repeatedly telling their story over and over again. For the first time, victims of property crime, including break-ins and car thefts, will be able to access tailored support through the service.

We have listened to victims and their families and advocates, and worked closely with them to design a service that addresses the longstanding gaps in the victim support system. This is about ensuring victims are heard, that they are supported and that they are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. It is a very different approach to what happened under the former Labor government which left victims navigating a fragmented system without a clear pathway to support. In fact, since 2017, victims have been calling for a statewide victim service and, despite repeated recommendations,

inquiries, reviews and promises to Queenslanders, the previous Labor government failed to deliver it. Not only that; under Labor, victims faced record delays and backlogs accessing financial assistance through Victim Assist Queensland. In fact, under Labor, victims were left waiting 550 days.

It will take time to turn around the broken system we inherited, but we are getting on with the job and we will always put victims first. That is why we are delivering a service that Queenslanders have long called for. We are strengthening victims' rights, improving access to support and ensuring victims have a stronger voice in our justice system. With the passage of this legislation we are delivering on our commitment to Queenslanders to ensure no victim is left to face the justice system alone.

Local Government

Hon. A LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.34 pm): Last week the Crisafulli government continued to deliver on our election commitment to work in a partnership with local government. Under Labor's decade of decline Queensland's most geographically disadvantaged councils were not properly consulted or engaged regarding matters that impacted their communities.

The Crisafulli government will continue to make local government a priority. Last week rural and remote and Indigenous council leaders met face to face with members of state cabinet through the Rural and Remote Councils Compact and the Indigenous Council Leaders Accord. These meetings are an important part of our Equal Partners in Government Agreement, ensuring local mayors are listened to when there are decisions that are impacting their communities.

These meetings are about delivering for those most disadvantaged communities and they are about action. The issues raised by local leaders are already helping to drive practical outcomes. We are strengthening connections between mayors and Queensland Health, because Queenslanders should be able to access essential health services regardless of their postcode. We are creating more opportunities for regional children to participate in sport, while helping families with cost-of-living pressures through our Games On! funding and Play On! sporting vouchers.

Through our Country Roads Connect Program we are strengthening regional road networks to deliver safer roads and better resilience. The newly released draft regional plan for the Cape York and Torres Strait sets out a 20-year vision for housing and economic opportunity. This is the first time the Torres Strait has been included in a regional plan. This is what a genuine partnership looks like. As Barry Hughes, the Mayor of the Etheridge Shire, said, 'To have a seat at the table is important, but seeing these discussions translate into action is what really matters.' Elsie Seriat, the Mayor of the Torres Shire, added, 'At the heart of these meetings is the commitment to working together, raising the issues that matter to our constituents and ensuring they translate into delivery.' That is exactly what the Crisafulli government will continue to do. We will listen to our rural and remote and Indigenous councils and turn those conversations into delivery for the Queenslanders who they represent.

Tourism Industry

Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.37 pm): Queensland's tourism industry has enormous opportunities ahead and the Crisafulli government is determined to make sure the people who drive this industry have what they need to succeed. One of the biggest challenges operators continue to raise is finding and keeping workers. I recently heard from Localis about the importance of working holiday-makers. They account for approximately one in every four international visitor nights here in Queensland. These visitors do not just work in regional Queensland; they spend money in regional Queensland. That is why the federal Labor government's visa changes matter well beyond the businesses employing working holiday-makers.

I acknowledge Canberra has moved from its original proposal. They faced criticism and they backflipped again, just like they did on disaster recovery funding. However, as I said yesterday, we must ensure the final arrangements work for our communities. Our government is doing our part to help tourism operators find and keep workers. It is why we recently announced a new $2 million Tourism Skills Fund developed by the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Minister Bates. It is the outcome of our Crisafulli LNP government working as a team to help tourism businesses attract, train and retain the workers they need.

Recently on the Gold Coast, I joined our tourism operators and industry leaders at DestinationQ and DestinationIQ as part of our state's Tourism Week celebrations. These are Queenslanders who are passionate about their industry and its future and they want a government that listens, understands

their challenges and helps them get ahead. That is why we are getting on with the job of delivering Destination 2045. I want to thank the Premier and Deputy Premier, as well as my colleagues Minister Minnikin and Minister Mander, for attending and participating in the week.

We also recently held the inaugural EventsQ where we launched new planning kits and training opportunities to further cement Queensland's reputation as the nation's events capital. These kits back local organisers with the practical tools to grow events and attract more visitors to their communities. We ended the week by celebrating outstanding operators at the Queensland Tourism Awards. From the Eumundi Markets on the Sunshine Coast to the Cairns Convention Centre and out west to the Cunnamulla Visitor Information Centre, Queensland has so many outstanding operators that help tourism thrive. Our gold winners head to Geelong in February where I again anticipate Queensland will top the medal tally because, after all, we are the home of the holiday.

We are also opening more opportunities for Queenslanders to experience their own backyard. Last week Minister Bates and I turned the sod to start works on delivering an $18.5 million upgrade at Springbrook National Park, including improved lookouts, visitor facilities and a suspension bridge. It is part of our 45 by 45 ecotourism ambition, and we plan to have 12 projects recognised by the end of this term. Nearby, Binna Burra is welcoming overnight guests again following the devastating bushfires seven years ago. Deputy Premier, the bell has been rung.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The bell has only rung for one person, and that is the minister.

Mr POWELL: The Crisafulli LNP government is unashamedly pro-tourism and we back that belief with a record $1 billion investment. Compare that with the former Labor government's secret plan to slash tourism funding by 95 per cent. The member for Murrumba and the member for Cairns were prepared to decimate the funding this industry relies on. We are investing in its future because we believe in Queensland tourism, we believe in the Queenslanders who make it great, and everything we are doing is focused on helping them succeed.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (2.41 pm): I advise that as the Minister for Transport and Main Roads will be absent for today's sitting, the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth will answer questions for the minister in question time today.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Health Workforce Plan

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.42 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House calls on the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services to table in the House by 5 pm on Thursday, 19 November 2026 the Queensland Health workforce plan.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time today will conclude at 3.42 pm.

Prince Charles Hospital

Mr MILES (2.43 pm): My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister advise the operating capacity of the Prince Charles Hospital emergency department overnight when it took three hours for staff to find a patient who had taken their own life in the emergency department bathroom?

Mr NICHOLLS: This is a tragedy that occurred overnight. It is a tragedy for many reasons. Obviously the loss of any life in a facility is a sad event. I am informed that the sad event occurred in the mental health section of the Prince Charles Hospital and the patient who had presented had self-presented and was appropriately triaged on time in the waiting area and had received early triage and then was waiting for a doctor to arrive. The sequence of events is currently being investigated, as you would expect, by the chief executive who has been onsite and is investigating the issues in relation to the timing and the activities around that area. Again, in circumstances where there is an unexpected loss of life there is a full investigation undertaken. That is the appropriate way to go. I understand that

the appropriate triage had taken place and the appropriate measures were in place to address that, but, as is the case with these types of presentations, they are often very difficult for our clinicians. They are very difficult for everyone who faces them.

As we know, the Prince Charles Hospital has been subject to a recent coronial inquest in relation to the mental health unit. Findings are yet to arrive from that coronial inquest. I have visited the Prince Charles Hospital mental health unit. I visited the psychiatrists there and I was informed that I am the only health minister to have actually visited that unit. I did that last year because I was concerned about what was going on. I was concerned about the three deaths that had been reported there under the watch of those opposite. I was concerned about it such that I went with the chair of the board of Metro North and following that meeting we invested some millions of dollars more in upgrades in relation to the mental health unit, including anti-ligature fittings and a number of other matters.

As a result of that, only 10 days ago the Premier and I launched the new master plan for the Prince Charles Hospital which includes 104 beds, 80 of which will be mental health beds, to address the deplorable bed shortage we were left by those opposite in relation to the provision of mental health services—the deplorable shortage that was left there as a result of the mental health bed shortage. We are also spending every cent of the mental health levy which the Auditor-General found those opposite set up without supervision and controls. As you would expect, an appropriate investigation is underway. I simply say this to the Leader of the Opposition: stop playing games with people's lives and these tragedies.

Ambulance Service

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Health. The opposition has been informed that on 15 November a relative of a Bethania man suffering breathing problems called triple 0 several times. The man entered cardiac arrest and died before ambulance crews arrived four hours later. Was the minister briefed on this incident?

Mr NICHOLLS: I am pretty sure I covered off on these matters yesterday in question time. There were a number of them. I covered off on matters yesterday. I advised that yes I receive briefings, as you would expect I would, from the department in relation to any unexpected or avoidable and preventable death in the community. Again, I always express my condolences to the families of those involved in those matters.

The facts of the matter are this. There is substantial pressure on the system. I have detailed that pressure. There are insufficient beds to address the issue. I addressed that issue. The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine has reported that between 2018-19 and 2023-24 there was no increase in the number of beds per 1,000 head of population under those opposite. I reported on the Sangster report, which found that up until 2022-23 the average capital spend by those opposite was $250 million. There were no new beds that they were able to deliver that had not already been programmed into the system under their decade of decline. Then in the dying days of a dying government they realised their position and came up with the failed Capacity Expansion Program which again the independent review found was an exercise in futility. On top of that, they failed to effectively advocate in relation to the stranded Australians adding to it, taking a hospital the size of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital out of operation every single day.

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My question was about a fifth Queenslander who died waiting for an ambulance. I would ask you to call the minister to be relevant.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the minister addressed that at the—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am trying to listen to a point of order.

Dr ROWAN: I believe the minister is being relevant. I believe at the commencement of his contribution he said that he addressed these matters yesterday and he has then gone on to provide some broader context in relation to the basis of the question as asked. I would submit to you that he is being relevant under 118(b).

Mr SPEAKER: I do agree that the minister is providing a lot of context. Obviously there is a lot of interest in this topic at the moment. Minister, you have one minute left to furnish any more information.

Mr NICHOLLS: The context is important because, for the last sitting week and this sitting week, those opposite have come in here asked questions in relation to tragic outcomes, but not once have they stood up and said, ‘You know what? We got it wrong.’ Not once have they said, ‘We failed to

address ambulance ramping.' Not once have they said, 'We didn't have enough beds.' It is important to understand that no new beds, a hospital shortage and 1,700 fewer workers was their plan. We take responsibility for fixing the problems. We are not dodging them and never have. We will be responsible and that is what our plan is doing.

With respect to the Bethania man, yes, I am aware of the incident that occurred on Sunday morning and the circumstances with respect to that incident. Again, my sympathies and condolences and those of the government go to the next of kin. I am advised appropriate contact has been made by the Queensland Ambulance Service.

Productivity

Mr DILLON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering solutions to the issues facing Queenslanders, and is the Premier aware of the price paid by Queenslanders due to a failure to act?

Mr CRISAFULLI: The honourable member for Gregory has asked a fine question. He speaks about delivering for Queensland. I will focus on his patch for a moment where, through the Residential Activation Fund, there is record funding to build housing in Longreach. We have funding for the weir project on the Thomson River, which the honourable member advocated for. The good people of Woorabinda no longer have to boil their water and long may that continue. We also have construction starting on the renal dialysis unit in Emerald. I thank the member for his advocacy across the board.

The member talks about productivity. He is right: today, the figures show the importance of productivity. We called this out from day one. We immediately brought back the Productivity Commission, which those opposite quietly shelved, and with the commission has come the drive in change that is needed. I reflect on the ABS statistics that show that, whilst there is a long way to go, Queensland is making progress with the fastest economic growth of all states and the best productivity growth of the mainland states. Queensland is the only state to record growth in every single category, has lower taxes per capita than the national average and is No. 1 in the State of the States report. I contrast that with what happened under those opposite when Queensland went backwards. I do not see this as the end; I see it as the start. We must continue to drive reform. We must continue to drive change.

The honourable member asks about contrasting approaches. There is no greater example of a contrast in approach than BPIC. Those opposite knew exactly what they were doing. They knew exactly that it was about driving productivity down. They knew exactly that it was about lining the pockets of their mates, but they relied on those union thugs to keep their jobs and, as a result, they funnelled money that way. This week, the Leader of the Opposition gave a kind of apology. He kind of said that mistakes were made. I have heard a lot of people give a version of, 'Steven has made that statement and I agree.' However, I have not heard 'sorry'. I want those opposite to stand up today and say that BPIC was an unmitigated mess. I want those opposite to apologise for what they did in driving down productivity. I want them to apologise to the 77,000 Queenslanders who would have had a roof over their heads if BPIC had not been there. I want them to apologise for the hospital beds that were never delivered. I want them to apologise for the roads that were not delivered. I want them to apologise for the productivity decline that we saw across the sectors, but they will not. I ask the member for Waterford, the member for Woodridge, the member for McConnel, the member for Gaven and the member for Springwood—all of the guilty parties around him—to apologise today.

(Time expired)

Minister for Health

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister meet with the family of the Bethania man who died whilst waiting for an ambulance?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Waterford for her question. It was reported to me—I do not necessarily listen to it all of the time—that this morning the member for Waterford was on 4BC, talking about her experiences as minister for health and such things. I do not believe that the member for Waterford referenced her promise to reduce ambulance ramping to 28 per cent in 12 months nor did she reference the fact that in the time that those opposite were in office ambulance ramping went up dramatically—

Mr Crisafulli: 45.7, I think.

Mr NICHOLLS:—and reached 45.7 per cent. I take the interjection from the Premier. It was the worst quarterly ramping rate on record. The member for Waterford did not reference the fact that there would be 1,700 fewer staff under their last budget nor did she reference the fact that since coming to office we have increased the budget for Queensland Health by 15 per cent and employed 10,000 additional staff. The member did not reference the fact that this year we have a $1.6 billion Queensland Ambulance Service budget that will see 200 new and replacement ambulance vehicles delivered and an additional 230 paramedics engaged. None of that made the headlines for the member for Waterford because she never did any of it. All that the member for Waterford did was add to the debt in the centrally managed budget without any source of funding, leaving programs like free flu unfunded, leaving things like perinatal mental health unfunded and leaving things like one half of the $150 million women and girls' strategy unfunded. Those are the things that we have fixed in the very short period that we have been in office. On top of that, we are also fully funding the Hospital Rescue Plan—

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The Bethania family lives in my community, and I asked the minister whether he will meet with the family of the man who died. He has not gone anywhere near that question.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, there was a specific question regarding the family. Come to that, please. You have one minute left.

Mr NICHOLLS: Again, I do express my condolences to the family of the gentleman who passed away and the circumstances. I can advise that, as at two o'clock this afternoon, I have not received a request for a meeting. All requests for meetings I consider and take on board, as one would expect that I do. At the first instance the appropriate response is from the clinical responders. I will always consider a request in the circumstances that have been described.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members once again that, when you rise to your feet on a point of order, state the point of order as to relevance or whatever. It is not an opportunity to make a speech.

Infrastructure

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli government delivering generational projects on time and on budget, and is the Deputy Premier aware of a price paid by Queenslanders due to a failure to act?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for that very dramatic question and the delivery of it because it is such an important question. Productivity will be increased in the House just a little quicker in the future. The honourable member asks about productivity because he absolutely believes in construction sites being productive and workers being well paid and safe. That is exactly what we are delivering with the $119 billion infrastructure spend across the state for not only games infrastructure but also roads, rail, education facilities and hospital facilities. We are delivering hospitals that Labor failed to deliver for 10 years. They want to lecture people about hospitals, yet they never delivered the beds required, as the honourable health minister has said. He is getting on with the job that their three failed health ministers failed to do.

'The price paid?' the member asks. It was a big price. It was billions of dollars—billions of dollars because of BPIC. There were the 77,000 fewer homes, as we have heard in the royal commission, and the billions of dollars.

Importantly, it is the price paid by the opposition leader. Here is where the rubber meets the road. Look at the articles—not in the last two days, but in the last 24 hours—last night and this morning. *The Australian* this morning stated—

> Senior [Labor] party sources told *The Australian* the former premier had failed to 'turn the ship around'.
>
> One factional ally of Mr Miles—

It is not the one on the left; it is possibly the one on the right or three down to the left.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection—with friends like that, who needs enemies? The article stated—

> One factional ally of Mr Miles said there was a broader need for 'fresh blood' and the removal of other senior members of his team 'tainted' by the actions of the former government ... including industrial relations spokeswoman Grace Grace and youth justice spokeswoman Di Farmer.

Not only are now they leaking against the leader, they are wanting the whole shadow cabinet reshuffled. Here is an even better one. The *Courier-Mail* article this morning says—

Steven Miles didn't consult his leadership group before issuing a surprise apology for refusing to act on the costly Best Practice Industry Conditions policy.

...

It is understood BPIC was mentioned in a morning call, but not all of the leadership were in attendance.

There as the leadership call there—Waterford, Murrumba, Woodridge, McConnel and Gaven. That is the five of them. Who is the leaker that has told the *Courier-Mail* that they were not on the call? Could it be the member for Woodridge who said yesterday in the press, 'These are just anonymous people.' The only anonymous person being quoted in any of these articles seems to be one person, and the only one who mentioned anonymous is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who wants the job because he knows time's up for the opposition leader, as we do and Queenslanders know.

(Time expired)

Ambulance Service

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for Health. On 13 November, Logan Reserve man, Craig Maksimovs called triple 0 with chest pains. Craig died before crews arrived 4½ hours later, with his family telling the media they are 'demanding answers'. Will the minister meet with the Maksimovs family?

Mr NICHOLLS: This is again another matter that I canvassed yesterday. I provided fulsome details in relation to a question in the House. Again, as always, when there is an unexpected death or a death where it is potentially avoidable, I extend my condolences and my apologies to the family. One of the issues in relation to past practice that I have discovered since coming into this role is that there were not appropriate protocols in place for reaching out to the families of those who had lost loved ones in those circumstances. It was highlighted by the tragic case of Mr Bradford, after which, in discussions with the Queensland Ambulance Service Commissioner, I requested the commissioner to put in place protocols to identify next of kin to ensure they were identified at the appropriate time and as early as possible. That process is now in place. It was not in place until that matter was brought to my attention. We acted immediately.

That is why, following the tragic circumstances that the member is referring to, after police had identified the next of kin of the tragically passed away gentleman, the senior operations supervisor at the time, I think it was, although it may have been an assistant commissioner, reached out to speak to the next of kin in respect of this matter and that has taken place. I am further advised—

Mr Power: Tell the rest of the story.

Mr SPEAKER: Who was that? The minister is responding. Cease your interjections.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am further advised that the Queensland Ambulance Service Commissioner has personally attempted to or has contacted all of the family and next of kin involved in the events that occurred over the weekend. That has occurred today. He is personally reaching out to them. In some instances, he may have left a message because people have not picked up and those sorts of things, but that work will continue.

At this stage, as at 2 pm, I have received no request for a meeting from the parties involved. As always, when we receive those requests they are immediately referred for advice and information from the appropriate clinical providers. They have the information. They have the knowledge. They have the record. In those circumstances, if requested, I will always consider the importance of that meeting. My office will inevitably reach out and respond to all of those people who have contacted us, as we do with the 50,000 pieces of correspondence we receive every year. As at 2 o'clock today, no such request has been made, but, actively, the commissioner and the senior operations supervisor have reached out to the family. I think that is appropriate. That is the process that has been in place for many years. The improvements to it are the ones that I have instigated following the passing of Mr Bradford. If there are further improvements to be made, we will make them. I again say the problem is a bed shortage problem.

(Time expired)

Sport Infrastructure

Mrs KIRKLAND: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli government investing in generational sporting infrastructure, particularly in regional Queensland, and ahead of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and is he aware of a price paid by Queenslanders due to a failure to act?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. I thank all honourable members in Central Queensland for their advocacy and passion for bringing the Olympic and Paralympic Games and sports to regional Queensland, something denied them by the former Labor government. We are making sure everybody in Queensland benefits from the 2032 games. It is not only the sporting infrastructure but also the Bruce Highway, the hospitals, the schools and all of the infrastructure that the Labor Party failed to provide over 10 years. We are bringing it on.

I was so pleased to meet with the President of Paddle Worldwide, Mr Thomas Konietzko, in my office last week. He backed the mighty Fitzroy River for the paddling events. He said, 'The field of play is great!' and that they cannot wait to paddle on the mighty Fitzroy River. If the Labor Party is given the chance, it will not be on the Fitzroy River; it will be down south because I suspect the Labor Party policy is to push events like tennis, rowing and paddling down south. That is not so under the LNP watch. We back regional Queensland, and our members back regional Queensland.

I turn to the price paid not only for infrastructure but also for hospitals. We need to look at what BPIC did for construction costs for hospitals and other things across the state. Of our $119 billion infrastructure spend, over $18 billion is health related. As reported in the AFR on 15 March 2023, it was stated—

Industry say it is the first time the government has flagged specific pay rises in its procurement process and some are concerned it could effectively cement increases in negotiations with the CFMEU.

Well, didn't we see that? An Australian Industry Group media statement on 14 November 2024 stated—

Ai Group has been flagging this issue with the Queensland Government since the introduction of BPIC.

...

... this has inflated costs, especially in regional Queensland, and distorted the labour market.

Our members have seen first-hand the damaging impact it has had across Queensland on building schools, hospitals, roads, sporting facilities, and more.

That was the price paid—billions of dollars more in taxation to the CFMEU coffers and protected and endorsed by the Labor government for 10 years.

A few days ago, we had this limp apology from the opposition leader: 'Oh, yes, I take responsibility and I'm sorry for BPIC.' Yesterday, the opposition leader—the very same person—waltzed out the front of Parliament House with a little protest group from the Queensland Council of Unions, attended by the CFMEU, and he spoke to the CFMEU protest. I table a copy of a photo of the opposition leader speaking with the CFMEU flag right there.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting protest activity outside Queensland Parliament.

He has not changed. You cannot believe his apology. It is still in their policy platform from 2025. No doubt it is in the 2026 one. He goes out there like former minister de Brenni went out and waved to the comrades. Time's up for the opposition leader. Queenslanders cannot trust him anymore.

Ambulance Service

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Health. The opposition has been informed that in early November, a Victoria Point man called triple 0 repeatedly, but sadly died before paramedics could arrive some seven hours later. Was the minister briefed on this incident?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for his question. As I have indicated in my answers to a number of questions raised both yesterday and today, I receive briefings on a daily basis with respect to activities in the portfolio. As the largest portfolio in Queensland, with the largest workforce, with the largest budget, and with the most diverse geographic spread from Currumbin to beyond Cape York and from Bribie Island out to Bedourie and Camooweal, you can imagine there is a lot going on in the health portfolio.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Mr NICHOLLS: Tragically, because it is the health portfolio and because we deal with terribly ill people in terribly difficult circumstances, it is the case that many of them pass away in our facilities or requiring, needing or being treated in our care. My own parents are two examples of that. It is always sad and it is always hard.

It is always the case that the clinicians and the hardworking paramedics and others do their very best to get everywhere they can. It is not every day—and it was never every day under those opposite—that every person who passes away is raised in this place. Let me say this: there are many people who prefer their matters to be private and to grieve privately. In fact, I would say the vast majority do, including people whose matters are raised in this place. With respect to that, I respect that issue, I respect the confidentiality and I respect the proper process proceeding in relation to those matters. In each case, my job and the job that I am entrusted to do is to ensure that the proper process is in place.

I take responsibility for ensuring that we fix up the problems we inherited: the bed shortages that have been identified not only by the independent Sangster review—a review that those over there trashed—but also by the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine; the bed shortages that have been identified by the colleges of psychiatry which say we do not have enough mental health beds; and the bed shortages that have been identified by the AMAQ, which says we do not have enough beds. The system is under pressure. The bed shortages left behind by those opposite do not help. The 1,400 stranded Australians who have been left in hospitals by their comrades in the Commonwealth do not help either. We are pulling every lever. We are investing billions and employing more, yet those over there accept no responsibility. They did nothing and they never admit that they were wrong.

Hospitals, Beds

Mr JAMES: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government investing in the hospital beds our health system needs, and is the minister aware of the price paid by Queenslanders due to a failure to act?

Mr NICHOLLS: What a great question from the member for Mulgrave. What a great member for Mulgrave he is. The member for Mulgrave and I have visited a number of health facilities, at the top of which we launched the $1 billion investment in the Cairns health precinct—an investment that is currently underway. There are cranes, excavators and piling rigs onsite. That work is going gangbusters. We have opened 32 beds and there are 32 more to come. We also have a CT and MRI machine. Because of the member for Mulgrave and his fellow members in the Far North, we have extended that and we are also including a breast screening component in that new facility. We are getting on with the job. The member for Mulgrave knows too well—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am reminded—in fact, I will come back to that. I have another one on that one. It is my good guess that I think I am on a hat-trick today.

The member for Mulgrave knows the price paid for Labor's decade of decline. He knows that the Sangster review into Labor's failed hospital expansion program found those opposite had failed to invest in and plan for—in fact, it had abandoned Cairns when it came to building the hospitals they needed. We know that because, when referring to Labor's BPIC policy, the Civil Contractors Federation's chief executive, Damian Long, said—

> Basically, for every two hospitals, you could've got a third one built for free—that was the impact it was having on the state.

The only government on the planet that refused a hospital being built for free was the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government. The member for Murrumba's apology for Labor's CFMEU tax was too little too late. It was certainly the case because after the Sangster review we found that their failed hospital expansion program had $7 billion in budget blowouts and years of delays. In fact, it reported that a major impact arising from BPICs was onsite productivity being around 20 per cent lower than in other Australian jurisdictions, including the Democratic Socialist Workers Republic of Victoria. That is how bad it was. Under a decade of decline under Labor, their botched policy only placated their union mates and stifled workforce and worksite productivity. They are directly responsible for failing to deliver the hospital beds Queensland desperately needs—the bed shortages we are experiencing today.

In contrast, our Hospital Rescue Plan is restoring value for money for Queenslanders. The Premier and I were on the Fraser Coast in early November and we opened the Hervey Bay Hospital expansion, which was delivered on time and on budget. Thanks to getting rid of and axing Labor's CFMEU tax, we are restoring worksite productivity and delivering for Queenslanders. Watch this space because there is so much more to come. Meanwhile, the clock is ticking on the member for Murrumba.

He should have called time's up on BPIC. His members and supporters over there are calling time's up on him now.

(Time expired)

Bundaberg Hospital

Mr SMITH: My question is to the Minister for Health. The opposition has been informed that in the last fortnight a patient at Bundaberg Hospital was moved from the PARAS unit, placed in a TV room overnight and found dead by cleaners the next morning. Has the minister been briefed on this incident?

Mr NICHOLLS: There seems to be some institutional hearing block in those over there in relation to the questions that they are asking and the answers that I am giving to them. This is now, I think, the fourth question in a row where I have said that I am advised by the department of all significant matters that occur that are worthy of ministerial notification and oversight.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister is being responsive.

Mr NICHOLLS: How rude. I have said on a number of occasions in relation to these types of matters that I get informed of all of those serious matters on a daily basis, whether they are in Bundaberg, in Thornlands or in Cairns. I get them every morning. I receive them all. I do not jump up in this place every time I receive one. I have been here a long time and know that neither did those on that side either every time it occurred. I respect the privacy of those people who are grieving the loss of a loved one and I respect—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you asked your question. The minister is being responsive.

Mr NICHOLLS: I respect their privacy. I respect the fact that they are grieving the loss of a loved one. I ensure that where a root cause analysis, a SAC 1 or a coronial investigation is required it is appropriately and fully answered and responded to. Where there are lessons to be learnt, they are picked up and taken. That is the appropriate course. That is the sensible course. That is the proper course in our system for the delivery of these health services. It is not the appropriate course to go around trying to make political mileage out of someone's loss or death.

One can only hope that common human decency pervades those on the other side with respect to this. I am very happy to answer questions in relation to the system. In fact, I have stood here for the last two days and done exactly that. I have provided information, I have briefed this House on significant matters and I have highlighted the issue. The issue is this: for a decade those opposite failed to build the beds that Queensland needed. They failed to advocate for Queenslanders in respect of stranded Australians. After 2022 they failed to advocate for a fair split of funding. They failed to fund the QAS. We are taking responsibility and addressing all of their failings.

Health System, Workforce

Mr DALTON: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government building the health workforce that Queenslanders need, and is the minister aware of any price that has been paid by Queenslanders due to a failure to act?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, before you respond to that just be aware there was a private member's motion moved regarding the health workforce plan, so I would just ask you not to pre-empt the debate. You have the call.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am most aware of the motion moved by those opposite. I am also aware it does not apply to their workforce plan. I would have to say that not much applies to their workforce plan. Nonetheless, I thank the member for Mackay for his support of our health workforce at the Mackay Base Hospital. Haven't we seen a turnaround up in Mackay and the Wide Bay region since the change in government up there! There is more activity, more work and more investment going on in that region. I have had some great journeys with all of the members up there as we have gone through. Isn't it a change from the Mackay Base Hospital and the maternity failures that occurred under the watch of those opposite which led to them sacking the entire board!

Our frontline health workers are doing an incredible job in a system that is under strain as a result of Labor's bed shortages that have occurred, including in Mackay. That is why we have invested and prepared a new master plan for Mackay. That is why we have re-opened the helipad at Mackay so

people can get closer and easier access. Our independent review of the failed capacity expansion program revealed that all of Labor's hospital projects, including in Mackay, were undeliverable, over-budget and delayed. That is why we are getting on with the job of building more beds and hiring more staff in Mackay and across Queensland.

We have grown the workforce by more than 10,000 workers, as I indicated in my ministerial statement. Of that, 7,000 are frontline clinicians providing direct care to patients and 2,800 in clinical support roles who make service delivery possible, including the people who take X-rays, for example—you would think you need them—or CTs, or MRIs or pharmacists—all of those people. In the Mackay HHS there are 270 additional health workers thanks to our investment.

What a contrast to the budget black holes, broken promises and baseless scare campaigns from those opposite. Who remembers when the Leader of the Opposition ran a baseless scare campaign about our health workforce? I certainly do—the shameful campaigns on the south side of Brisbane and the billboards they put up, scaring Queenslanders for no good reason. The Leader of the Opposition crisscrossed the state whipping up fear and falsely claiming that health jobs were on the line if this government won. As it turns out, the only job on the line is that of the Leader of the Opposition. The knives are out. Turkey season is coming because Christmas is on its way and the leaks have turned into a deluge. While we are getting on with the job of building more beds and delivering the plan, the member for Murrumba is making his own: the leadership rescue plan. The member for Woodridge is crunching the numbers. He looks like he is in a deficit. McConnel is running the plan past the CFMEU—

Mr SPEAKER: Time has expired, Minister.

Mr NICHOLLS: Waterford said she will bring the staplers—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr NICHOLLS:—and Miller was ready to circulate it but he deleted all the emails!

Mr SPEAKER: Minister! When the clock hits zero, time has expired.

Ports

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. In 2015 Labor legislated that no more ports can be built in Queensland, restraining our state's development. Will the Premier reverse the ban and unlock this potential for our state?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question. I am mindful that he is not at his healthiest at the moment, so good on you for turning up and good on you for fighting for your area. I digress, but I also note—

Mr Bleijie: I'm crook too.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Yes, I know you are. I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. He is also ill. I also note that the honourable member had a fight of a different kind for charity just this month, and I commend him for doing it. It takes great ticker to get into a ring. I am always happy to debate you in this place, honourable member, but that will be where it ends.

The member asks about the act and the courts. Whilst I was not in parliament at the time, I am familiar with the act and I will make this observation: there is always a balance that needs to be found. Good governments find the balance and they take the time to find it. The balance that always has to be found is to make sure that you have working ports and equally that you have a good, functioning tourism industry and that you are proud of your environment. That has to be the balance that is found.

I hope the honourable member has seen in this government a couple of things. One is that we are always happy to look at and consider things that make sense when it comes to economic development, particularly in regional Queensland. Whilst I will not go into the specifics of individual ports, I make the observation that, if there are opportunities to increase the economic output of a port, we should absolutely look at it if it can strike the right balance.

Mr Bleijie: Defence.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The Deputy Premier says 'defence' for good reason. We are investing heavily in opportunities for defence. I have the view that if you have ports you have to make sure you have access to them because without that you do not have anything. We should always look for every opportunity to make sure we can use them to their full capacity. The honourable member's question is a good one. It is one that we should be open-minded to. We should make sure that we always defend our environmental values—they are very important to us—but, equally, we are open for business.

I will also make the point that I hope the honourable member has seen in a short period of time that we are not afraid to do some heavy lifting when it comes to ports. Dredging has begun in Port Hinchinbrook, which is a classic example of a project that was put in the too-hard basket but we are getting on with. At the Cairns common user facility we have been able to go in and get some clarity after a lot of confusion. With the Mackay container depot program we have changed a lot of the governance around the boards, and indeed the minister has his freight delivery plan.

I am very happy to sit down with the member and talk about opportunities. Whilst there are always complexities—many of these ports do have the overlay of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, not all of them but many do—whilst there are always challenges with that, we should not use those challenges to say no to things. We should use those challenges as a way to say how can we make sure we protect our environment, how can we be open for business and how can we let ports be ports?

Procurement

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. How is the Crisafulli LNP government focused on building a procurement system that works for Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any price paid by Queenslanders due to a failure to act?

Mr O'CONNOR: I thank the member for Whitsunday for giving the Minister for Health a break. I am very proud to inform the member that under our overhaul of Queensland's procurement policies Queensland businesses have secured over $3.3 billion more in government procurement compared to Labor's last financial year. That is because the Crisafulli government puts those Queensland businesses ahead of a militant, misogynistic union. The member will be particularly interested to know that regional procurement is up almost 16 per cent. That is an additional $460 million going to regional Queensland. In the Whitsunday electorate alone, if you compare 2024-25 to 2025-26, government procurement spend went up $35 million to $55 million and the number of suppliers went up from 230 to 330.

The second part of the member's question is particularly important because Queenslanders are still paying the price for Labor's failure to stand up to the CFMEU. Their cosy relationship with the CFMEU gave us BPIC, Best Practice Industry Conditions. If that had continued construction projects would have cost 20 per cent more. We would have been paying $24 billion extra for the same number of projects, a further 26,500 homes could have gone unbuilt by the end of the decade, and that is on top of the 77,000 homes that were not built since 2018 because of falling productivity. While Queenslanders were struggling to afford a home, Labor was focused on protecting their CFMEU mates.

The Leader of the Opposition, the member for Murrumba, can fumble through an apology all he likes now, but where was that apology when Queensland's construction industry was being slugged by the CFMEU tax? Where was that apology when workers were fearing for their safety when they were being terrorised on job sites? Where was that apology when bill costs were soaring? Where that was that apology when Queenslanders were being priced out of a place to call home?

The Leader of the Opposition was a senior minister, the deputy premier and the premier in the former Labor government. He sat on the Cabinet Budget Review Committee. He was Queensland's infrastructure minister for 1,127 days, yet he acts as though he was not fully across the impact of BPIC and says that he should have done something sooner. He is apparently really sorry about that. Either this non-apology apology is one of the great mistruths in the history of Queensland politics or he legitimately did not know the impact of BPIC, which makes him even more hopeless and incompetent than his anonymous colleagues think he is. Whatever the answer, there is only one thing that is clear, time is up for the member for Murrumba.

(Time expired)

Bundaberg Hospital

Mr BAILEY: My question is to the Minister for Health. I table a leaked photo from the Bundaberg Hospital, where a makeshift room was set up in the dining area.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting a dining area at Bundaberg Hospital.

Can the minister advise how many patients have been treated in the Bundaberg Hospital PARAS unit dining room, rather than a hospital ward, this year?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Miller for his question in respect of this matter. The leaked photo I think was posted on Facebook by the patient himself. I know that the member for Bundaberg

was scuttling around outside the hospital last week trying to make mileage out of it as well—scuttling sideways, leftwards, I would think. Nonetheless, that is the way it goes.

The fact of the matter is that the Bundaberg Hospital is under pressure, as we have been saying. The reason it is under pressure is that those opposite failed to do anything about it. They failed to fund it, failed to build it and failed to have a plan that would have actually addressed the needs of the Bundaberg community. There were two campuses, it needed an extra $200 million a year to operate it, and the old hospital was still in a flood zone. That was the planning that went into it by those opposite. They had not resolved drainage, they had not resolved electricity and they had not come to an agreement with adjoining landowners in relation to access and water flow off that property.

We now have piling rigs onsite that are driving in, if my memory serves me, more than 200 foundations to build the new full Bundaberg Hospital. We are delivering it. Not only that; we are funding it because it was underfunded to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars by those over there. We will be delivering the beds that Bundaberg and the Wide Bay region need and we will be curing the bed shortage left behind through a decade of decline by those over there.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question sought a number within a date range.

Mr SPEAKER: It was on relevance. Minister, the question was around that part of the hospital. You have seen the photo and you have the details of that.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, Mr Speaker. The question was in relation to the patient who had been relocated for a short period—

Mr Bailey: No—how many patients.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has the call.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, the question was in relation to a patient who was in the dining area, according to the question. I am saying that the hospital is doing its very best under the basis that they do not have enough beds. The reason they do not have enough beds—and I think that patient described himself, and good on him for doing this, by using TheOldWarhorse as his handle on Facebook—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We asked for a number over the last year.

Mr SPEAKER: Just hold on. Could I have a look at that question, please?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is being completely relevant to the question as asked. With respect to the previous point of order by the Manager of Opposition Business, the minister continued his response and was being directly responsive to that, referencing back to not only the circumstances contained within the question but also the broader context related to the Bundaberg Hospital.

Mr SPEAKER: Just hold for a moment. The question was about patients in a temporary waiting room. Minister, you have been relevant to the Bundaberg Hospital. It is to the running and maintenance of the Bundaberg Hospital. You have 13 seconds remaining.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Here is a figure they will not like over there. Ramping in May 2024 was 49.5 per cent under those opposite. That is the legacy they left behind. Is it any wonder our staff are under pressure? We will deliver the 410 beds that they never could.

Tourism Industry, Jobs

Ms JAMES: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation. How is the Crisafulli LNP government backing vital jobs across Queensland's tourism sector in the Far North, and is the minister aware of any approaches that put these important jobs at risk?

Mr POWELL: Wow—a Cairns-based member of parliament asking a question about Far North Queensland, not Townsville! How refreshing is that, and on a very special day for the member for Barron River, too, I might point out. This is a member who is backing her tourism operators, not secretly trying to slash their funding at the most inopportune time. This is an MP who is talking up the tourism operators in her region, not taking every opportunity to talk down the industry.

Mr Healy interjected.

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

Mr POWELL: The member for Barron River is a member who stood up and opposed the federal Labor government's catastrophic working holiday-maker visa changes. She stood up and advocated alongside Tourism Tropical North Queensland, the Cairns Chamber of Commerce and her region's tourism and agricultural industries. She advocated through the *Cairns Post* and took the fight, alongside QTIC, to Canberra. I read with interest what the member wrote in the *Cairns Post*. She wrote—

Labor must stop putting Far North Queensland jobs at risk.

...

The message to the Albanese Labor government is clear: don't make it harder for our businesses to find the workers they desperately need.

She then expressly mentioned a number of specific issues around her tourism operators. She stated—

Working Holiday Makers account for approximately 45 per cent of Crystalbrook Collection's Cairns workforce, around 220 employees. CAPTA employs around 40 Working Holiday Makers each year, while Dundees Restaurant—

which I think we have all attended at some stage—

has advised that approximately 80 per cent of its workforce comes from this group.

I know that QTIC have acknowledged that there has been a significant shift in the federal government's original proposal, but they still stand by the fact that their position on the caps has not changed: that a cap is still a cut and the caps have to go. They have asked for clarity around faster processing. They want a confidence campaign with funding—so they can go out to the international market to say we are open for business and we want working holiday-makers to come here—because of the damage that has been done. They want to work with the UK in particular to get those bilateral agreements sorted. They want the federal government to review this debacle in the next 12 months and put safeguards there so we do not repeat these mistakes. Ultimately, they want to exclude working holiday-makers from net migration.

I mentioned I was in Minister Bates's electorate last week. We stopped for a coffee, and guess who served us? It was a young woman here on a working holiday-maker visa. While the member for Barron River was advocating, where was the Leader of the Opposition in all of this? Was he standing up for Queensland jobs, or was he simply too distracted by the latest leaks in his own ranks and the fallout from his BPIC apology? While regional Queenslanders are fighting for their livelihoods, the Leader of the Opposition is fighting for his leadership. Time is up for the Leader of the Opposition.

(Time expired)

Ambulance Service

Mr RICHMOND: My question is to the Minister for Health. There have been more than six Queenslanders reported to have died while waiting for an ambulance, and that is just those we have heard about. Will the minister front the media today to answer serious questions?

Mr NICHOLLS: Will the member for Stafford front the media and say why he ran a shameful scare campaign based on untruths for which two of his colleagues in this place had to apologise to the House? Will he front the media and explain why, when he was a senior adviser, he failed to address the issues in relation to the mental health unit at Prince Charles Hospital? Will the member for Stafford front the media and explain why the terrible disgrace of the cardiothoracic unit was allowed to develop under those opposite and never got resolved? Will the member for Stafford get up and explain why hospital ramping reached its worst quarterly level while he was an adviser? Will he get up and explain why nothing happened at the Prince Charles Hospital under their watch for over a decade? That is the reason—

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

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

Mr RICHMOND: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the member has taken personal offence and I ask that you withdraw.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I withdraw. Will the member for Stafford get up and explain how he only survived and got into this place with an eight per cent swing against him led by 'Time's up' member for Murrumba? Eight per cent was all they got in Hinchinbrook and eight per cent was the swing against the member in Stafford.

Mr Crisafulli: Thirty per cent primary he got.

Mr NICHOLLS: Exactly. Will he get up and explain how that happened and will he ever get up and apologise for the dreadful mistruths he spent hours telling in a desperate attempt to hang on to a seat he won on Green and socialist preferences? There he is. I am reliably informed that the north side of Brisbane is an ALP right stronghold. No wonder the member for Woodridge is right beside him all the way, because we know the knives are out for the member for Murrumba.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about the minister's intentions to front the media.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, the question was basically about whether you are going to talk to the media today.

Mr Bleijie: Hello, media!

Mr NICHOLLS: Hello! I think I am directing my comments directly at the media right now and I am directly answering the question. I always respect the role of the media and I am sure they will accurately reflect the words I am saying in this place in their online blogs. It is part of our great democracy.

Here is the question that everyone wants an answer to: on whose side is the member for Stafford? Is it the member for Murrumba, the member for Waterford, the member for Gaven or the member for Woodridge, because the knives are out and killing season is about to start.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, you are warned.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I submit to you in the consideration of public debate around the tone of parliament that the minister's remarks ought to be considered unparliamentary.

Mr SPEAKER: I am not 100 per cent sure—

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

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Leader of the House, do you have a point of order?

Dr ROWAN: I was going to ask the Manager of Opposition Business to reference the point of order that he was—

Mr SPEAKER: No, there is no point of order. I have dealt with that.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

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

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations be allowed to immediately move a motion without notice with the following time limits to apply to the debate of the motion—

- 3 minutes for each member;
- total time before question put—30 minutes.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

CFMEU Inquiry

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (3.45 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes the commission of inquiry into the CFMEU interim report titled, *Building Queensland's future: interim report on a Queensland construction code*;
2. notes the Leader of the Opposition's recent admission that Labor left the door too far open to the CFMEU;
3. notes the Leader of the Opposition's recent media comments that 'I think mistakes were made with that policy';
4. notes Commissioner Stuart Wood AM KC's findings that BPIC added at least 20 per cent to the cost of Queensland taxpayer funded construction projects;
5. condemns the negative impact BPIC had on the delivery of roads, rail, hospitals, schools and other infrastructure projects;

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I cannot hear the Deputy Premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: And—

6. supports the abolition of BPIC;
7. supports the Queensland Construction Productivity Code 2026; and
8. calls on the members for Woodridge, Waterford, McConnel, Gaven and Springwood to personally apologise in the House during this debate for the role they played in Labor's BPIC policy and for not acting sooner.

This is a really important motion because you have the Leader of the Opposition apologising not on behalf of his team but just himself, and you have a plethora of other ministers not apologising, including his leadership team of five. The leaks against the opposition leader are extraordinary. This is not his backbench, this is not his shadow cabinet; this is his personal leadership team whom he calls every morning for advice. One of them was absent from the call. One of them have advised the *Courier-Mail* they were not on the call. It was discussed, but they did not get a chance to vote on it. When you have your inner sanctum leaking against you, you know time's up; you know it is over, rover.

Everyone was warning them about BPIC. I table a copy of a letter from Ai Group dated 28 January 2021 where they said—

> As drafted the ... BPIC would impede the viability and growth of the construction industry in Queensland.

This letter was addressed to Annastacia Palaszczuk and cc-ed, I might add, to the then treasurer and minister for investment, Cameron Dick; Mick de Brenni, then minister for public works and procurement; Mark Bailey, then minister for transport; Steven Miles, then deputy premier; and the Hon. Grace Grace, then minister for IR. I table a copy of that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 28 January 2021, from various representatives from the Australian Constructors Association, the Australian Industry Group, the Civil Contractors Federation Queensland, the Infrastructure Association of Queensland, Master Builders Queensland and the Queensland Major Contractors Association, to the former premier, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, regarding the Buy Queensland Procurement Policy and request for meeting.

Everyone was warning about this. This is why the code we implemented yesterday is so important. However, the union movement went out yesterday and attacked the code we introduced, so the question is: does Labor back the construction code that we implemented yesterday on construction sites? Do they back women in the construction industry? If they do, they will support this motion today.

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.48 pm): I thank the Deputy Premier for bringing this motion to the House. The Labor opposition will not be opposing this motion and we do not seek to stand in the way of the government's building code—not that we could; it is government policy, it has been announced, it is in place and it does not need the endorsement of this House. I am aware, because of the amount of time that the government has spent talking about it, that they have great interest in my position on the best practice industry principles. Can I say to those opposite and to all Queenslanders that Labor is the party of safe workplaces. Labor is the party of fair pay and conditions.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order! Members to my right.

Mr MILES: Labor is the party—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was unacceptable. The House will remain in order.

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Labor is the party of equal opportunity for women. Labor is the party of skills and training because they have the power to provide opportunity to working Queenslanders. It was those values that were the good intentions that informed the Palaszczuk government's decision to implement the Best Practice Industry Conditions—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members to my right! Deputy Premier! Your interjections are not being taken.

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have been up-front with the facts that that well-intentioned policy was misused by some and I have accepted my responsibility for that. I have said to Queenslanders from day one that where mistakes were made in the past I would acknowledge that, and that is what I have done in the case of BPICs. I have accepted responsibility in a way that the health minister could not today for the failings of the health system under the Crisafulli government. In fact, it is not even that he would not take responsibility; he would not even meet with the families. I will always take responsibility. That is what I am doing today.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr MILES: That is what this motion from the government notes and that is why we will support this motion, but we will never shy away from the fact that we are the party that is on the side of working people. We are on the side of working Queenslanders and working families, and we will always be.

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.51 pm): Well may it be said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions, because that is exactly the member for Murrumba. He says that he did it with the best of intentions but they ignored seven years of evidence that their best intentions were well off track. In 2017 they ignored the CFMEU calling for the wives and daughters of people who went to work on Cross River Rail to be raped. That is what was going on, and it was raised in this place when the member for Murrumba was right here on this side of the House and a senior member of a government that made these decisions. It was raised when the member for Miller evacuated his own office because he had advance notice that the TMR offices—

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

Mr NICHOLLS:—were about to be stormed—

Mr BAILEY: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr NICHOLLS:—and raided by the CFMEU.

Mr BAILEY: Sit down, Noddy!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Minister, would you—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a point of order first from the member for Miller. What is your point of order, member?

Mr BAILEY: The comments by the member for Clayfield are untrue—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I am not asking for a commentary.

Mr BAILEY: I take personal offence and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, the member has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

Mr NICHOLLS: Of course I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now have a point of order from the Leader of the House.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There was an interjection by the member for Miller that was grossly disorderly and unparliamentary with respect to its language and I ask you to rule on that matter. If you are unable to at this point then I request that the tapes be reviewed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. It would assist the House, member for Miller, if it is believed that you have said something which is unparliamentary that you withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I am happy to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I call the minister.

Mr NICHOLLS: It is clear and the video and the news reports of the night show that the CFMEU stormed the TMR building right here in town—broke through, threatened security staff and, if memory serves me, threw one over and dominated and took over the meeting room in TMR at a meeting that the member for Miller was scheduled to be at. That is the story of the member for Murrumba's oversight of BPIC. We all remember the fight on the south side at the Woolloongabba station when members of the CFMEU took on people who wanted to legitimately go to work and the fisticuffs that occurred, and we have seen that on tape.

I say to the member for Murrumba—and, sorry, Deputy Premier: cry me a river of tears, member for Murrumba. You do not change your spots. Everyone knows it. We know that because yesterday in the protest that was going to rival the take-down of the Polish government and the Communists—instead 100 people turned up—who was standing under a CFMEU flag? The member for Murrumba! Was the member for Woodridge there? The member for Woodridge was there. He has joined the fraternal brotherhood of the left as well.

Despite having a decade to act, despite having time on their side, they failed to build the hospitals that were needed because of the CFMEU. We have already heard the stories in relation to one hospital for every two that were built. We have heard the stories from the Sangster review—the independent review, a review that those over there trashed. They did not believe it, but now the evidence is too overwhelming. It said there was 20 per cent less productivity than on comparable worksites—that Infrastructure Partnerships Australia said was little more than a mirage of releases. Labor's CFMEU tax meant not one of the hospital projects could be delivered on time or on budget. The member for Murrumba cries crocodile tears. He should not have been believed then, he cannot be believed now, and we will hold him accountable every single day for Queensland's hospital bed shortage.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Before I call the member for Woodridge, I am going to warn the member for Miller for his disorderly conduct in making a point of order before and remind the member that he is now on a warning.

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.55 pm): I rise to speak on the motion before the House. From the outset I want to associate myself with the comments and the contribution made by the Leader of the Opposition in the debate and the contributions and comments made—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order!

Mr DICK:—by the leader outside of the House as well on this very important issue. The Leader of the Opposition has addressed this matter at length, both today and previously. I want to make this very clear, as the leader has made clear, as the members of the parliamentary party have made clear, as I have made clear and I make clear today: BPICs are dead, buried and cremated. BPICs will never return under any future Labor government, and that is the strong leadership position that the member for Murrumba has made while speaking for all of us. The member for Murrumba, our leader, has also made it very clear that we apologise for the errors that we made and the mistakes that we made, and we do so again today and I do so again today. I stand by those statements the Leader of the Opposition has made. I stand by them and I repeat them today: I repeat that apology.

I tell members what: what have we heard in this commission of inquiry? In this commission of inquiry the evidence has been serious, and that is touched on in the interim report of the commissioner—evidence of threats against children, threats of violence, evidence of actual violence, intimidation of individuals, including intimidation and violence against female workers on the picket line. What it is not is an episode on Netflix. This commission of inquiry is not an episode on Netflix, which is exactly what the Deputy Premier called it in this House. Discussing the resumption of the CFMEU inquiry in this place on 10 February, the Deputy Premier said it is 'better than the top 10 on Netflix'. There are men and women in this state who have been threatened and intimidated and are victims of actual violence, and the Deputy Premier dares call this—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I need to be able to hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr DICK: How dare the Deputy Premier compare this to Netflix! He said it would rival the top 10 on Netflix. This is not a serious minister in charge of a serious commission of inquiry. He then later said on 26 August, with regard to watching the CFMEU royal commission, what a show it was and that the member for Burnett would be cancelling his subscription to the *House of the Dragon*. The Deputy Premier has made a mockery of the serious evidence that has come before this commission. Our leader has not. Our leader has been deeply serious about this. We apologise, I apologise and the Labor Party apologises for our errors.

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) (3.59 pm): Did anyone hear the word 'sorry'? Was there any 'sorry' from the member

for Woodridge? There is no remorse. There is no acceptance. All that the member for Woodridge and others could say with regard to the thuggery that has been further revealed by the Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU and Misconduct in the Construction Industry was, 'Look over here,' 'Look over there,' or 'I stand with the leader.' That is really comforting. There was no 'I am sorry' for the role that the member for Woodridge and his colleagues were directly responsible for.

What is this? He was the treasurer. You would assume that when you are signing cheques for hundreds of millions of dollars and serious issues have been raised regarding the thuggery of the CFMEU and the blowouts caused by BPIC—the CFMEU 'favourment' clause—you would ask some questions. But no. They tried to claim they had no responsibility for the known thuggery, the abuse and the threats of rape against women, children and the family members of those who worked on our construction sites under the previous Labor government. We saw a mob take over the Queensland department of transport office, and yet they still will not say sorry for that. Do they seriously expect us to believe that they did not know about that? Nobody believes that. They knew, they looked the other way, and—worse than that—they benefited from the money pouring into their coffers to help them run their election campaigns, just as we saw with the member for Waterford, who in fact acknowledged and thanked the CFMEU for their help in getting her elected.

They have not only compromised themselves, but they have also let down all Queenslanders—especially the Queensland women working on our construction sites and their families—by ignoring those threats and looking the other way. No sorry, no care, no change—they are just as bad as those making those very threats because they chose to look the other way. Talk about the hypocrisy of a party that claims to be for the worker, yet looks the other way while threats are being made.

The new code that the Crisafulli government is bringing in is about ensuring the safety of all workers and productivity. It is incredible to think that Queensland could have had three hospitals for the price of two. However, that was an opportunity lost due to the thuggery of the CFMEU and the ineptitude of the Labor Party, which took the money, ran and sold out Queensland. There was no apology from the member for Waterford, and it is time they paid attention and took responsibility.

(Time expired)

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (4.02 pm): It is interesting to follow the Minister for Women in this debate. I wonder if she will apologise for her party when it was last in power and cut funding for the Working Women service and for sacking thousands of women public servants. If those opposite want to talk about apologies, they have still not apologised for sacking 14,000 workers and for cutting funding from domestic and family violence services. DV Connect lost funding. You want to talk about apologies. I am very happy to come in here and stand by the words of the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I think he has shown enormous leadership and courage in admitting that we got it wrong. He has apologised. We have apologised. I apologise, but I want to talk about why we are debating this motion today.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members on my right. I need to be able to hear the member for Waterford in case any of you wish to raise a point of order in relation to her speech.

Ms FENTIMAN: The motion specifically notes Commissioner Stuart Wood's findings. I note he found in his commission of inquiry interim report that the Labor Party—the Labor government—took the extraordinary action of putting the CFMEU into administration. That did not make the motion moved by the Deputy Premier, did it? Let's talk about why we have this motion today. Why are they coming in here and moving this motion—which we do not oppose—to talk about a code that is already government policy? Is it because they want to distract from two disastrous question times where the health minister gets up, is tone-deaf, and absolutely refuses to meet with families who have lost loved ones while waiting for an ambulance? That is why we are debating this motion. They are desperate to distract from the appalling record of the health minister.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Waterford is not being relevant in her contribution and all she needs to do is say sorry.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the House, that last statement is not a point of order, but I will take your point of order in relation to relevance. Member for Waterford, I think you may have been beginning to stray into territory that is not covered by the motion. I would ask you to return to the motion, please.

Ms FENTIMAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My point was about productivity. Commissioner Stuart Wood talks a lot about the importance of productivity and I want to talk about the lack of

productivity from the health minister and his disastrous performance in question time. That is why we are debating this motion.

I also want to talk about the fact that the Deputy Premier comes in here and says that he is all of a sudden really concerned about women in the workplace. He was the attorney-general under Campbell Newman when they sacked women public servants and cut funding to women's organisations that provided support for women who worked in construction. What does the Working Women service do? It helps women—such as those who work in construction—get legal advice for things like unfair dismissal and sexual harassment. The Deputy Premier has suddenly decided that he now supports women in the construction industry. He was a senior minister in the Newman government which cut funding to organisations that supported women in the construction industry. This is nothing but a distraction and it is a shameful waste of the parliament's time. We could be debating domestic and family violence legislation, yet we are debating this.

(Time expired)

Mr DILLON (Gregory—LNP) (4.05 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to support the motion moved by Deputy Premier today. We have heard from many people about the effect of things that happened to them. In her contribution earlier, the Minister for Women raised the things that were not built, but what about the things that those opposite did not fund and run? The member for Waterford did not apologise at all in her contribution. She made reference to somebody else's words but she did not talk about the things that, as the former health minister, she did not fund, like real dialysis at the Emerald Hospital. She did not talk about having two maternity units in regional Queensland on almost permanent bypass—all so that she could funnel the money into the pockets of the CFMEU. Don't go around the cabinet table and fight for money to keep services in your portfolio operating and then, when you realise it is wrong and your leader has the gall and temerity two years after he loses the premiership to stand up and apologise, take ownership of your failings as a minister and stand up and apologise, despite the Leader of the Opposition saying the Labor Party will support this motion.

Those opposite should read the whole motion because No. 8 in this motion calls on those members named to apologise in this House. We have heard from two of them, but we have heard nothing other than them associating their comments with those of the leader. They are refusing to say 'I'm sorry'. They will not acknowledge their failings as ministers and the critical failings in their portfolios.

It is not just limited to the member for Waterford. Have a look at the work that the member for Gaven did not do in her multiple portfolios towards the end. Look at the lack of investment in government employee housing in places like Longreach and Alpha where those employees were soaking up the rental market or living in substandard accommodation. The same minister refused to unlock land for housing so that Western Queensland could survive. Where was the funding for Longreach weirs? It did not happen until this government came in and slashed BPIC. The member for Gaven has not apologised in any way for the failings in her portfolio.

Then we look at energy prices across regional Queensland. The Manager of Opposition Business—and I notice he is back—has not apologised for the fact that he refused to invest in maintaining coal-fired power stations, causing them to blow up; therefore, driving the price of power in regional Queensland through the roof. It went up by 29 per cent, some of which we have seen reduce thanks to the policies of this government and the abolition of BPIC. Queensland construction costs were going through the roof under their watch. They should take note of item 8 of this motion. They say they support it. In the time remaining, those members left to speak should stand up and apologise to the people of Queensland for their diabolical behaviour.

Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (4.09 pm): I will focus on point 8 of the motion which the opposition leader said the opposition is supporting. Point 8 calls on members to personally apologise. There is still a little bit of time left to speak, but they have not appeared to speak. The member for McConnel, the shadow industrial relations minister, is nowhere to be seen. She went out of the House as soon as she possibly could.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Bonney, I am going to stop you there. There is a longstanding convention that you do not reflect on the absence of members from the chamber. I would ask you to refrain from commenting on a member's absence in your contribution.

Mr O'CONNOR: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member for McConnel is not on the speaking list and did not take up the opportunity to speak. The member for Gaven, I will have to remind the House, was the building minister in Queensland before I was the building minister in Queensland. She was the minister for public works. It is something that I have to remind myself of frequently because there was not a lot of building that went on under the member for Gaven. An average of just 509 social

homes were delivered by the former Labor government over their decade of decline. We have not heard from the member for Gaven on this motion. She is not on the speaking list, despite supporting a motion that called for the member for Gaven to personally apologise.

The real point of point 8 is to personally apologise. That means saying, 'I'm sorry'. It is not hard. It is really simple. It is not about using every other word—they, he, we, she—it is not about using all those other terms. It is about saying, 'I'm sorry'. It is really simple. If the opposition are supporting this motion, I do not know how their own members are defying the motion that they are apparently supporting. We heard the faux outrage from the member for Woodridge, who was outraged by the findings of a commission of inquiry into conduct—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Woodridge, do you have a point of order?

Mr DICK: I take personal offence at the words used by the honourable minister and ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, would you withdraw, please?

Mr O'CONNOR: I withdraw. We heard outrage from the member for Woodridge about conduct that is the result of the policies of a government in which he was the treasurer. It is extraordinary.

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the words used by the honourable minister and ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken offence. Would you withdraw and carry on with your contribution.

Mr O'CONNOR: I withdraw calling the member for Woodridge the treasurer of the Palaszczuk-Miles government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, if you could just withdraw and then move on with your contribution, please.

Mr O'CONNOR: I withdraw. The closest we get from the member for Waterford was that she stands with Steven, but then described this motion they are supporting as a waste of time. It could not be a clearer contrast. This side of the House is the side of the House that abolished BPIC, that got rid of the CFMEU tax from Queensland's procurement policies and that is driving productivity on job sites across Queensland. The results that we heard earlier are showing that our changes are working. This LNP Crisafulli government is putting the needs of Queenslanders ahead of the CFMEU. Under those opposite it was the complete opposite. We saw cost blowouts across the board. We saw workers on job sites across Queensland being terrorised. It was an absolute disgrace. It is a great privilege to support this motion. It is a shame that those members named in the motion that they are supporting did not personally apologise and that even more of those members did not even bother getting on the speaking list.

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (4.13 pm): I rise to support the motion as moved by the Deputy Premier. What we are seeing in the Queensland parliament this afternoon is that those opposite will still not take responsibility for their decade of destruction that was happening right across Queensland when it came to the CFMEU. The CFMEU terrorised work sites. They jeopardised the safety of women. When I hear the member for Waterford, the rank hypocrisy is unbelievable.

Ms Fentiman: Are you going to apologise for the doctors' contracts?

Dr ROWAN: The member for Waterford might like to interject on that, but she does not care about women's safety. She genuinely does not care about women's safety. That is why she enabled the CFMEU—

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): The member has taken personal offence. Would you withdraw?

Dr ROWAN: I withdraw. Those opposite do not care about women's safety when it comes to work sites here in Queensland. That is why they enabled the CFMEU for 10 years. There was terror that took place on those work sites—there was misogyny, there was sexism, there was bullying, there were threats of rape. It is extraordinary that those opposite come into this House and try to rewrite history. The David Irvings of the Queensland parliament would have to be those opposite when it comes to revisionist history here in Queensland.

The findings from the Stuart Wood royal commission into the CFMEU are extraordinary when it comes to the amount of wastage that happened across Queensland in relation to taxpayer dollars. There were blowouts on projects right across Queensland. There was wastage of money with projects not built on time or on budget. One only has to look at the Centenary Motorway project, which has had a huge impact on residents in the western suburbs of Brisbane. When it comes to debating this motion, those members opposite will not take personal responsibility or accountability and apologise to the people of Queensland. They will not do that. It would take courage for them to stand up—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the House, in accordance with the motion moved, the time for this debate has expired.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your guidance on the motion just passed by the parliament. Point 8 of the motion called on various members—McConnel, Gaven and Springwood—to personally apologise. The member for Springwood is in the chamber. He has backed a motion that required him to speak, but he did not speak. If we need more time for him to speak, I am happy to move for extra time. How does the House deal with a motion that we have just supported that he did not speak on?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Just one moment, Deputy Premier. I will take some advice on that point of order.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, while I am seeking advice cease quarrelling. There should not be quarrelling anyway but especially while I am seeking advice. Thank you for your point of order. There are actually two points of order—one in relation to the debate time and one in relation to the impact of point 8 of the motion. The motion agreed to by the House earlier set a debate time of 30 minutes for this debate. That debate time has expired. The motion has been carried. In relation to the substance of point 8, it does not amount to an order of the House.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 17 September (see p. 2988).

Second Reading



Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.17 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

In September this year, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly. This bill continues the work of the Crisafulli government to put victims first and to hold perpetrators to account. Domestic and family violence is one of the most serious issues facing Queensland's communities today. We know that our police need the tools and resources to meet this challenge. We also know that victims deserve to feel safe from perpetrators and to have the knowledge that their government is doing everything it can to protect them. The legislation before the House does just that and expands on the significant reforms already progressed by the Crisafulli government.

I begin by acknowledging my colleague, the former minister, the member for Whitsunday, for her leadership and commitment in delivering these important reforms and the work of Minister Leahy in introducing them. This bill builds on last year's amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. A key objective of the bill is to improve our frontline response to domestic and family violence by repealing the police protection notice framework and making police protection directions the primary response for frontline police.

The bill strengthens justice responses to domestic and family violence by introducing new offences for the repeated contravention of a domestic violence order or a police protection direction, and creates new circumstances of aggravation for the contravention of a police protection direction, meaning respondents who have been convicted of a contravention within the past five years could face a five-year prison sentence for any subsequent breach.

The bill further strengthens court protections for survivors of domestic and family violence by expanding the definition of 'protected witness' to ensure victims are protected from being directly cross-examined by a self-representing party. The bill also establishes a framework for how sensitive materials are to be viewed, obtained or copied during and after civil proceedings. These amendments will reduce the opportunity for systems abuse.

The bill makes amendments to the electronic monitoring pilot to enable its statewide expansion. These amendments will require magistrates to consider making an electronic monitoring condition when imposing a domestic violence order with non-standard conditions and allow the Police Commissioner to request monitoring information where they reasonably suspect the information will assist to assess or manage a risk of harm due to domestic violence, or for any law enforcement purpose.

Following the bill's introduction in September, the bill was referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee. I thank the members of that committee and particularly the member for Keppel and chair of the committee for his work through the consideration process. All of the members of the committee contributed quite substantially to the inquiry into this bill before the parliament. The committee received a total of 36 submissions and hosted public hearings in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and Loganholme. I thank all of the participants and stakeholders who shared their valuable experiences for the committee. Listening to victims of crime is what drives our government's commitment to tougher laws and better protections. The committee's final report provided one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its recognition of the importance of stronger laws, better protections and better responses for those who have survived domestic and family violence.

Before moving on to the detail of the bill, I observe that there are a number of minor and technical amendments to the bill, which I moved a moment ago. They will not change the intended effect of the bill but they are necessary to support its intended operation. I will not go into that further at the present time. We can go into it further during consideration in detail.

I will now move to a detailed overview of the bill. The bill strengthens justice system responses by creating two new offences for repeated contraventions of a domestic violence order or a police protection direction and it increases the maximum penalty for contravening a police protection direction. A respondent will commit one of these new offences where they contravene either a domestic violence order or police protection direction on at least three occasions within a 28-day period. The offence will carry a maximum penalty of 240 penalty units or five years imprisonment, consistent with the penalty that exists for the circumstance of aggravation that applies where a person contravenes a domestic violence order within five years of a previous breach.

The bill increases the maximum penalty for the breach of a police protection direction, meaning it will apply the same penalty as a breach of a domestic violence order. The breach of a direction within five years of a previous contravention will be a circumstance of aggravation attracting the same maximum penalty that currently applies to the further contravention of a domestic violence order. This will align the penalty framework for police protection directions with the framework applying to domestic violence orders. This change is important because it reflects the serious nature of this type of offending. Perpetrators need to know that the contravention of a police protection direction is a serious offence and, under our tougher laws and higher penalties, they will be appropriately reprimanded.

The bill streamlines the legislative framework for police response to domestic and family violence through amendments to the PPD framework, the repeal of the police protection notices framework and amendments to the domestic and family violence custody framework. Police protection directions will become the primary mechanism for police responding to domestic and family violence, ensuring police can respond to the next call sooner and help the next victim sooner, whilst reducing the accompanying administrative burden. Of course, that is important for making sure our police officers can answer as many calls for help and be at as many doors as is possible in a person's hour of need. Importantly, the bill minimises the need for survivors of domestic and family violence to become involved in often retraumatising court proceedings, allowing them to get the protection that they need and deserve.

The bill will extend the duration of police protection directions to three years, remove existing restrictions on police issuing a police protection direction and increase the range of conditions that police may impose on a respondent as part of a direction. As a result of these changes, police protection notices will no longer be required and are being repealed from legislation. This will create a more streamlined and practical framework for frontline police responses. These amendments are informed by the experience of our frontline officers. They have made it clear to government what needs to be

fixed to ensure the most effective possible implementation of police protection directions as our primary response and so that is what we are doing.

At the same time, the bill seeks to ensure that there is appropriate court oversight in higher risk or complex circumstances. Police will be required to file a PPD with the court as an application for a protection order in certain circumstances, including where related proceedings are before the court, conditions affecting contact between a respondent and their child are necessary, conditions are required that can only be imposed by a court or where cross-directions are issued. Police will also be required to consider whether to exercise their discretion to file a police protection direction with the court in every circumstance when issuing a direction.

Our government is getting the balance right between the immediate protection of victims and the need for appropriate judicial oversight. We are equipping police with the tools and the frameworks they need to be able to do their important jobs for our community. The bill will also modernise the custody framework under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 to further streamline police responses to domestic and family violence.

As all limitations on police issuing police protection directions are to be omitted, the bill replaces release conditions with PPDs as the principle police response on releasing a person taken into custody in relation to domestic and family violence. The bill requires that a police officer, on releasing a person from custody, issue a police protection direction naming that person as a respondent and consider making an application for a protection order. Where urgent court consideration is required, police will be required to consider seeking an urgent temporary protection order.

The requirement to issue a direction and consider applying for a protection order will not apply where a domestic violence order is already in place between the parties. This change is important because it mandates that victims will get the protections as soon as they are needed. Importantly, the bill provides a further exception to this requirement where the person taken into custody is identified as the person most in need of protection. In this circumstance, police will still be required to consider whether it is necessary and desirable to protect a person from domestic and family violence, potentially by issuing a PPD naming that person taken into custody as the aggrieved. The bill will also enable police to facilitate the recovery of personal property by an aggrieved person through conditions on a PPD instead of having to have the matter dealt with through the courts.

The bill will simplify existing review arrangements by removing the internal police review process and establishing the court review process as the primary avenue for challenging a PPD. At the same time, the bill will provide appropriate administrative flexibility by allowing the Police Commissioner to amend a police protection direction in certain circumstances, including to remove a condition included in error, to remove a named person included in error or where relevant details have changed. If a person is incorrectly named on a PPD, other than the aggrieved person or a respondent, they may request the police to correct that direction. The Police Commissioner will also be able to revoke a direction issued in error with the effect that the direction no longer forms part of that person's domestic violence history.

To ensure the effectiveness of the reforms, a statutory review of the amended police protection direction framework will commence as soon as practicable after one year of operation to provide an opportunity to assess the implementation and to ensure the framework continues to meet the expectations and needs of Queenslanders. The PPD reforms are crucial because they give police the tools they need. As was heard by the committee, the Queensland Police Service have been asking for the necessary tools to respond to domestic and family violence since as early as 2015. Our government is now taking action to deliver this, and Queensland survivors of domestic and family violence will be better protected because of it.

The second objective of the bill is to implement two key reforms to enhance protections for victims during domestic and family violence proceedings. Firstly, the bill expands the court's ability to make arrangements for the safety, protection and wellbeing of parties to an application for a protection order or to vary a protection order. The bill achieves this by expanding the scope of who is a 'protected witness' to include the person named as the aggrieved in a protection order, or a relative or associate of the aggrieved in a subsequent proceeding where they are named as the respondent to the application. This will also apply where two protection orders are in place as cross orders between the same individuals and an application to vary either order is made. This amendment is intended to ensure victims continue to have access to the protections available to protected witnesses, despite being named as a respondent in a subsequent proceeding. These protections include the power for the court to make orders as to how the person is to give evidence and to prevent direct cross-examination of that person by a person using violence.

Secondly, the bill provides a framework for how sensitive materials are to be viewed, obtained or copied during and after civil proceedings. Sensitive evidence and statements are commonly relied on in criminal proceedings where processes surrounding this type of evidence are well-established. However, in civil domestic and family violence proceedings, there is limited clarity on how sensitive material is to be handled, and there is a risk that the provisions that are currently in place may not sufficiently restrict the viewing or possession of this evidence by the respondent. So, we are taking action to make that right.

The bill, therefore, inserts a framework into the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act governing the handling of sensitive evidence, to prevent the misuse or distribution of evidence containing or displaying an image of a person, such as intimate photographs or those depicting injuries, and video or audio recordings of vulnerable survivors of domestic and family violence describing their experiences of it. This framework will restrict a party to a proceeding, or a person named in an order made in a proceeding, from viewing or possessing sensitive material unless the court makes directions as to how that evidence is to be viewed. Existing penalties under the Criminal Code and the Evidence Act 1977 will apply to viewing or possessing sensitive material other than in accordance with the court's direction.

These reforms are needed and they have been welcomed by stakeholders throughout the sector. Protecting victims from system abuse is an important responsibility of government, and these reforms will be another step forward in achieving that.

The bill makes substantial amendments to strengthen and enable the statewide expansion of the Electronic Monitoring Pilot. It does this by amending the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Regulation 2023 to provide that all magistrates courts in Queensland are prescribed courts for the purposes of this pilot. All magistrates courts, when imposing domestic orders with non-standard conditions on eligible respondents, will be required to specifically consider whether a monitoring device condition should be imposed. Courts will have the power to request advice about the availability of a monitoring device and impose a monitoring device condition where a device is available for the period the court intends to impose that condition. Courts that decide not to impose a monitoring device condition will be required to give reasons for that decision.

Electronic monitoring is another way we can protect victims of domestic and family violence—another tool in the kit, so to speak. It ensures that perpetrators are held accountable and gives victims just a little bit more confidence that the protections that have been put in place will work for them. The bill also amends the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Regulation to allow the Police Commissioner to request monitoring device information where they reasonably suspect the information may assist to assess or lessen a serious threat of harm due to domestic and family violence, or for another law enforcement purpose.

Each request for information sharing will be assessed on its individual merits and must be made for a proper and lawful law enforcement purpose. The Police Commissioner must be satisfied that access to the information is justified in the particular circumstances of the case. The power to request and obtain information under this amendment is limited to information relating to a monitoring device worn by a respondent only. Police will not be empowered by this amendment to obtain information relating to safety devices worn by a person in need of protection.

The use and disclosure of monitoring device information will remain subject to appropriate safeguards. The expansion of the Electronic Monitoring Pilot statewide is a step in the right direction to offer victims more protections and hold perpetrators to account. The information-sharing provisions with law enforcement will also provide further protections to at-risk survivors of domestic and family violence, allowing police to be aware of the information they require to best protect victims.

In summary, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill delivers the reforms and protections required to enhance accountability for perpetrators, while protecting victims and ensuring timely police responses to domestic and family violence. It equips police with the strong tools they need to respond to the risk faced, while reducing the previously existing administrative burden.

As we commence debate of the bill in this chamber, I would like to express my thanks to the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel, officers from the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, victims and stakeholders who contributed to the drafting and reform process, and the committee for their thoughtful consideration of the bill. These reforms reinforce our commitment to reducing domestic and family violence. Putting victims first will always be at the

centre of the Crisafulli government's response to domestic and family violence. Everything we can do, we will do, and we must do. That is why I commend the bill to the House.

Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (4.37 pm): Sadly, domestic and family violence remains one of society's most serious challenges. It is a tragic, unrelenting scourge. Too many Queensland women have lost their lives at the hands of someone they should have been able to trust the most. Too many children have grown up in homes where fear, intimidation and violence have become part of their everyday lives. Too many victim-survivors continue to suffer in silence, often because they do not have the confidence in the systems designed to protect them and keep them safe.

As members of this parliament, we have a solemn responsibility to these Queenslanders—a responsibility to listen, a responsibility to act, and a responsibility to ensure that the laws we pass in this place actually make people safer. It is not enough to offer condolences after another tragedy. It is not enough to stand in this chamber and condemn domestic violence, and it is certainly not enough to introduce legislation alongside a carefully crafted media release without doing the work necessary to ensure those reforms deliver genuine protection.

The Queensland Labor opposition will always support measures that genuinely strengthen protections for victim-survivors. We strongly support our frontline police officers who respond to some of the most dangerous and confronting situations imaginable. We recognise the enormous pressures they face and the importance of ensuring that they have the resources, the training and the legislative tools necessary to do their jobs.

We also recognise the importance of holding perpetrators accountable, particularly those who repeatedly disregard orders intended to protect victims, but changes that do not contain sufficient protections and safeguards will not make victim-survivors safer. When parliament is asked to expand powers that can have profound consequences for the safety and wellbeing of Queenslanders, we have a responsibility to ensure those powers are appropriate, evidence based and accompanied by sufficient safeguards. Unfortunately, that is where this bill falls short.

At the centre of this legislation is a significant expansion of the police protection direction framework. Members will recall that this framework was introduced by the Crisafulli LNP government last year. At that time, the Queensland Labor opposition raised serious concerns about the proposed framework. Those concerns were shared by legal experts, domestic and family violence organisations and other stakeholders. Nevertheless, the government pressed ahead and police protection directions commenced operation on 1 January this year. Now here we are, less than 12 months later, debating substantial changes to the very framework that this government assured Queenslanders would deliver better outcomes.

Put simply, they were a failure—a failure that raises many questions. What has the government learned from its operation? What were the unintended consequences? Where is the evidence that these proposed changes will not make things worse? What evidence demonstrates that these changes will make victim-survivors safer? Why has the government decided to significantly expand the framework before conducting a comprehensive, independent review?

These are not unreasonable questions. They go to the very heart of responsible governance. Concerningly, despite no comprehensive independent review being undertaken, the bill proposes to extend the duration of a police protection direction from 12 months to three years—a significant period for a direction that is to be imposed by a police officer without the initial scrutiny of a court. The Queensland Law Society was clear in its evidence that expanding this framework without properly evaluating its operation could make matters worse, stating—

> It is certainly our position that that review should take place before we tinker with the parts in case we make things worse and not better.

Other submitters expressed similar concerns, including submissions from organisations that work every day with women, children and families who depend on these protections. These are not organisations that oppose changes to the response to domestic violence—they, in fact, welcome them—but the changes must be evidence based. This is why the evidence of these organisations needs to be taken seriously.

While this government often treats the mention of expert advice and evidence like they are dirty words, such evidence and advice is crucial to informing reforms like those before us. That is why the Queensland Labor opposition was pleased to learn on 2 October 2025—over 13 months ago—that a review was to be undertaken by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety on

misidentification in DFV settings, and it is why the opposition was equally dismayed to learn in recent days that this ANROWS research is still only at its commencement stage 13 months later.

This is the type of research that should be front and centre before significant changes like those before us are made. How can the government justify proceeding with such significant reforms while this important work has barely begun? Why is this Crisafulli LNP government so determined to expand these powers before the evidence is available and before a review has been completed? The Queensland Labor opposition does not believe victim-survivors should be expected to carry the risk associated with the Crisafulli government's selective haste nor their social experiments. Haste and social experiments are what have led to these botched laws in the first place.

The bill also removes existing restrictions on when these directions can be issued and introduces new offences for repeated contraventions, carrying a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. Whilst we strongly support perpetrators being held accountable, these reforms also significantly increase the consequences of an incorrect decision where a victim has been misidentified.

Responding to and investigating domestic and family violence is very complex. This complexity means that it is not always immediately apparent who is the person using violence and who is the person in most need of protection. Perpetrators can be manipulative. They can be calculating. They can present themselves as calm and reasonable, while their victim is frightened, distressed and traumatised. We know that some perpetrators deliberately manipulate the justice system to continue exercising control over their victims. As the Queensland Police Union stated in the committee hearing—

> In essence, frontline constables are being asked to discharge quasi-judicial functions on a dark suburban driveway amidst conflicting accounts and extreme time pressures.

This statement highlights the challenges police face and also why the misidentification of victim-survivors is such a challenging issue. During the committee process, the Queensland Law Society provided a particularly compelling example of what can go wrong. The society described a hypothetical scenario of a woman called Alice—a scenario drawn from real-world experiences. In the interest of time, I will not repeat it here in full, but I encourage all members to read the full transcript of the society's presentation to the committee.

In short, when police attended the incident, the perpetrator presented as calm and composed and the victim was distressed and deregulated. For this reason and in this case the person in most need of protection was misidentified as the perpetrator. Under the expanded framework, that woman could find herself subject to a police protection direction lasting three years. That direction could have consequences for her employment, her children and her future. The victim then sent three text messages in breach of that PPD within 28 days. In this scenario, the victim—the person in most need of protection—could face a serious criminal charge carrying a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. The first occasion on which that decision receives judicial scrutiny may be when she is facing criminal prosecution. That would be yet another female incarcerated in Queensland. That level of risk cannot simply be dismissed. Misidentification is not simply academic; it is the lived experience of too many victim-survivors.

Concerningly, this bill includes the removal of safeguards relating to domestic and family violence matters. The bill proposes to remove restrictions under section 100(c) of the existing legislative framework—specifically, restrictions which apply where a police officer is either the aggrieved or the respondent. The removal of this protection means police officers will be able to issue a police protection direction in matters involving their own colleagues with limited oversight and safeguards. Perceived or actual conflicts of interest are a real problem when it comes to community trust in our justice system, and the removal of these restrictions undermines that trust.

These concerns are not simply the views of the Queensland Labor opposition. They were raised by the Crime and Corruption Commission itself. In their submission to the committee, the CCC warned of 'inherent corruption risks associated with discretionary powers which allow police to issue a PPD where a police officer is involved either as a respondent or aggrieved'. In doing so, the CCC warned that changes could undermine trust and legitimacy in the Queensland Police Service.

This cannot be overstated. In fact, when the Queensland Labor opposition recently asked the chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission about those inherent corruption risks, the chairperson went as far as to say—

> That bill raises a number of issues of significant concern in the view of the CCC. Whilst I would not normally do this, because of the significance of those concerns, with the indulgence of the committee, I just want to read a little from the actual submission.

He went on to state—

The committee would be aware that for some time we have had significant concerns and rising complaints in relation to domestic violence which is perpetrated by police officers, and also where they are victims.

Further, he stated—

What we set out in our submission was that we are unable to identify the rationale for these proposed changes.

He finally noted at the end of his comments—

I understand that the committee has now reported on that bill, and the concerns that we have raised have not led to any proposed amendments or broad discussion.

It is absolutely extraordinary for the government to ignore the clear and unequivocal advice of the CCC. Importantly, the Victims' Commissioner also specifically supported the CCC's submission, and both the Victims' Commissioner and the Crime and Corruption Commission also support the prioritisation of the establishment of an independent police integrity unit.

The establishment of a police integrity unit was recommended by the *Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence* in November 2022, initiated by the Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP. The former Labor government accepted that recommendation and commenced work on its implementation. There was more work to be done, but substantial work was undertaken. Options were developed by the CCC, stakeholders were consulted and a working group was established. The Crisafulli LNP government inherited that work—

Mr Purdie interjected.

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, you may note that I am not taking any of the interjections. I have had a lifetime of young people yelling at me and I am certainly not going to tolerate this.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Thank you, everyone. Please cease those interjections. Member for Mansfield, please continue.

Ms McMILLAN: I would expect that I do not have to deal with children in this chamber. The Crisafulli LNP government inherited that work when it came to office and it has now been in government for longer than Labor had that recommendation. What progress have we seen? Little to none. Time and time again the Attorney-General has told Queenslanders that the government is giving the matter careful consideration. Careful consideration? Queenslanders have heard nothing but platitudes and words to that effect for more than two years.

Mrs STOKER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. There is nothing in this bill that deals with the establishment of a police integrity unit.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order to the point of order. There are a number of submissions before the parliamentary committee that considered this legislation that talk about the importance of the police integrity unit, including the CCC, so I believe the contributions are entirely relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, members. This has been discussed previously. There are a range of things that can be spoken about in the debate. You have the report, you have submissions and you have testimony from witnesses. It has been ruled previously that all of these things can be included in the debate. There is no point of order.

Ms McMILLAN: Queenslanders have heard nothing but platitudes and words to that effect for more than two years, yet we are seemingly no closer to establishing a police integrity unit. We do not have a clear implementation time line and we do not even have specific funding allocated to establish it. During estimates, the chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission confirmed that the commission had received no additional funding associated with a potential police integrity unit. More recently, at the November public meeting of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee it was revealed that there had been no further meetings with the CCC on the matter since April. There were no further meetings since April. While the government is asking this parliament to give police officers significantly expanded powers and remove protections, the very reform intended to strengthen independent oversight appears to have stalled.

This bill cannot be considered in isolation from the broader response to domestic and family violence in Queensland. One of the most troubling developments under this government has been the growing disconnect between its public commentary about domestic violence and the experiences of frontline services. In October it was reported in the *Courier-Mail* that the police minister claimed DV rates were dropping. That is a remarkable claim because the evidence presented to the parliamentary committee tells a very different story. When asked about those comments, the Brisbane Domestic Violence Service, operated by Micah Projects, directly challenged the suggestion that domestic

violence offending was declining. They outlined that the number of people coming forward for support from their service has been increasing at a minimum 20 per cent year on year for as many years as they could recall. They also highlighted that research shows domestic violence is up to 80 per cent underreported to police.

This is an important context, because a reduction in the number of incidents recorded by police does not necessarily mean a reduction in the number of Queenslanders experiencing domestic and family violence. It may reflect changes in reporting. It may reflect changes in police processes. It may reflect changes in recording practices, but nobody on the coalface believes that domestic violence offending is falling. We cannot measure the success of our response to domestic violence simply by counting fewer victims. We must measure success by whether fewer Queenslanders are actually experiencing violence, whether women feel safer in their homes, whether children are protected, whether victim-survivors can access the services they need and whether perpetrators are being held accountable.

The Queensland Labor opposition has consistently raised legitimate concerns about the integrity and transparency of crime statistics under this government. They have been caught out at least three times fudging the figures, including with domestic and family violence victims. That is why Labor has called for the establishment of an independent community safety statistics bureau. Queenslanders deserve nothing less. Queenslanders deserve confidence that the statistics used to assess community safety are accurate, consistent and independently scrutinised. Domestic violence is far too serious an issue to become an exercise in political number crunching, as we have seen under this Crisafulli LNP government.

There is another issue that cannot be ignored in this debate, and that is the government's record on funding domestic and family violence prevention and support services. The Queensland Labor opposition has identified approximately $140 million in domestic and family violence funding that has been cut, removed or reallocated under this government. That includes almost $40 million cut from this year's budget, a further $10 million in domestic violence funding confirmed as reallocated during estimates, and almost $90 million removed from the prevention of domestic and family violence budget through machinery-of-government changes when the LNP came to office: $140 million.

That is a staggering amount of funding for which Queenslanders deserve a proper explanation at a time when frontline services are reporting increasing demand, at a time when women are struggling to access crisis accommodation, at a time when victim-survivors need legal assistance, counselling and practical support to escape violent relationships and at a time when children continue to experience the devastating consequences of violence in their homes. There is much global research that supports the impact domestic and family violence has on the developing brain. The government must explain where this money has gone. Legislation alone cannot keep women and children safe, a police protection direction cannot provide a safe place to sleep and a tougher penalty cannot replace specialist counselling.

Domestic and family violence is not an issue that should be reduced to political slogans. It is not an issue where success can be declared simply because a government has introduced yet another bill to fix their botched bill that was introduced some months ago. It is not an issue where legitimate concerns from experts should be dismissed because they complicate the government's preferred narrative of reducing victims. We owe victim-survivors more than that. We owe them laws that work. We owe them systems that they can trust, particularly in their time of need.

The Queensland Labor opposition supports our frontline police. We support strengthening Queensland's response to domestic and family violence, we support holding perpetrators accountable, and we support reducing unnecessary administrative burdens so police officers can spend more time protecting Queenslanders. However, those objectives must be pursued carefully, responsibly and with victim-survivors at the centre of every decision. We cannot support the expansion of a framework that has not been independently reviewed, while serious concerns about misidentification remain unresolved. We cannot ignore warnings from the Crime and Corruption Commission about removing safeguards in matters involving police officers. And we cannot accept continued delays in establishing an independent police integrity unit. For those reasons, the Queensland Labor opposition cannot and will not support this bill in its current form.

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (5.01 pm): I rise to make a contribution on this bill and I do so with a deep sense of frustration. In August last year, I stood in this very parliament and raised serious concerns about this government's introduction of police protection directions. I, along with many

of my colleagues, warned about the risks of misidentification and the absence of victim consent. These were not just my concerns; they were concerns shared by victim-survivors and the frontline workers.

What did this government do? They ignored those warnings. We moved amendments back then, and those opposite voted them down. Now we are back in this parliament debating significant changes to those very same laws. This bill significantly expands the PPD framework and it does so without an independent review of whether the existing framework is actually working.

One of the greatest risks continues to be the misidentification of victims of domestic and family violence. We know perpetrators can manipulate the system. They can present themselves as the victim, while the real victim—who has experienced years of coercion, intimidation and abuse—is wrongly identified as the perpetrator. Last year I told this parliament that women are best placed to make decisions about their own safety and the safety of their children. I said we should be empowering victim-survivors, listening to them and trusting them. I still believe that. But this government is now expanding these powers and increasing penalties without properly addressing the risks of misidentification. In fact, the government recently confirmed that the ANROWS study into misidentification, announced more than 13 months ago by the former minister, is only just commencing. How can this government justify significantly expanding these police powers when the very research needed to understand the risks has not even begun?

The original police protection direction framework commenced on 1 January this year. By May, reports had already emerged that police are reportedly opting not to use them and are only issuing them in small numbers as a result. Rather than undertaking a formal independent review, the government has just decided to expand the scheme. Submissions to the committee raised significant concerns about this approach. The Micah Projects submission summed this up perfectly. They said—

Progressing significant structural reforms, without wholistic consideration of downstream system impacts threatens the success achieved in Queensland in our response to DFV. Making further changes ahead of the statutory review process, without clarity of the analysis from the initial 9 months of operation is not recommended.

That is from the people on the front line, working with women and children every day. Surely, the sensible approach is to understand whether these laws are making women safer before we start giving out greater powers. Instead, we have a government pressing ahead without the evidence and the safeguards that victim-survivors deserve.

This bill cannot be considered in isolation from the broader response to domestic and family violence. In October, there were reports that the tone-deaf police minister claimed domestic and family violence rates were falling, but stakeholders after stakeholders are reporting increasing demand for the service.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Waterford?

Ms FENTIMAN: I withdraw. The Salvation Army reported a 20 per cent increase in service sessions. Women's Legal Service reported that demand continues to increase year on year.

I also want to talk about what I believe is one of the most serious concerns with this legislation, and it is in a quote from the CCC's submission. They said—

The Bill removes the protection this exclusion provides for aggrieved persons in DFV matters involving police. Instead, PPDs may be issued by police officers without restriction, including where a police officer is a respondent or aggrieved. There is no clear rationale for the change in policy position from 2025, nor provision for additional safeguards to manage the potential risks that may arise in circumstances where a police officer is involved in a DFV matter.

Further, the CCC said—

The CCC considers there are inherent corruption risks associated with discretionary powers which allow police to issue a PPD where a police officer is involved either as a respondent or aggrieved.

This government is removing important safeguards that currently prevent police from issuing PPDs where the aggrieved or the respondent is a police officer. Those safeguards exist for a reason. Without a police integrity unit, these provisions raise serious concerns. This is a police integrity unit that the CCC, the Queensland Police Union and DV stakeholders all support. It is critical to ensure proper oversight. For those reasons, I move—

That the words 'now read a second time' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'delayed until such time as the government has made provision for the establishment of an independent police integrity unit within the Crime and Corruption Commission to deal with all complaints in relation to the Queensland Police Service'.

Imagine being a victim of domestic and family violence and the person you are reporting is a police officer. You are being asked to put your trust in the very organisation your alleged abuser works for. You are being asked to tell their colleagues what has happened, hoping that you will be believed, that your information will remain confidential and that you will be protected. No victim should be afraid to report violence simply because their alleged abuser works for the police. No Queenslander should have to question whether the police officer involved in their case will receive special treatment. Yet the government is proceeding without establishing the independent police integrity unit that was recommended by the *A call for change* report, following the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence.

After more than two years of that report sitting on their desks, you would think someone on that side of the House may have read it. For their benefit, I will read some quotes from the victim-survivors of police perpetrated domestic and family violence. Here is one quote—

I was interviewed by officers working in the same district as him and was told that I could not expect confidentiality in the matter e.g. rest of the officers in the district may be aware of my complaints.

Here is another quote—

Throughout my marriage the perpetrator let me know that I would have no recourse through the Queensland Police Service for his behaviour ... he would tell me he 'had the entire blue army behind him'.

The simple fact is that the Crisafulli government have now had responsibility for this recommendation for longer than the previous Labor government. They have had longer than we had to do that work and to continue the work we started. What progress have we seen? At estimates we learned that the CCC have received no funding to establish this unit. At the November Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee public meeting, the CCC confirmed that 'there have been no further meetings' about its establishment since April this year.

They have had two years in government and all we continue to hear from the Attorney-General is that the recommendation is receiving careful consideration. The commission of inquiry could not have been clearer. It stated—

A disciplinary system where police investigate police, who are sometimes friends and workmates, simply does not result in a fair system.

I think that would make sense to anybody in Queensland. They have also made it clear that QPS members who perpetrate domestic and family violence in their personal lives are also likely to compromise QPS responses to domestic and family violence. We need to reduce pressure on police—of course we do—but we must do it in a safe way for victims of domestic and family violence, not by expanding powers before reviewing the existing framework, not by overlooking the devastating consequences of misidentification and certainly not by removing safeguards while failing to deliver independent oversight. We need a police integrity unit. This is too important to look past.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Keppel, before you start I advise you that now that amendment has been moved, everyone is speaking to that amendment until it is disposed of.

Mr HUTTON (Keppel—LNP) (5.10 pm): My question to the parliament is: who lives? While we wait for yet another set of reforms to be held back by the Labor opposition, who do not support looking after our victims, who lives? We heard time and time again from stakeholders who told us about the challenges they had faced. They were the survivors, yet who lives?

We have heard tonight that the Labor Party will not back reforms that support Queenslanders who are facing the scourge of domestic and family violence, a scourge that has not turned up overnight and that Queenslanders have met again and again in their communities. We have heard that the Labor Party will not back our police. They say, ‘We support you, but we don’t trust you.’ However, the legislation that was before this House provided for that. Now, once again, they wish to hold back that reform because they would like to see some more time taken. While we are undertaking academic studies, while we are waiting to see what the future looks like for these communities, more and more Queenslanders are going to be wounded, more and more Queenslanders are going to live with the trauma of these consequences, and more and more Queenslanders simply will not be here tomorrow.

The scare campaigns that we have witnessed, not just here tonight but over the course of this, put Queenslanders more at risk. They make Queenslanders feel that they are less safe. Therefore, this is something that none of us should be supporting. Each and every one of us has a responsibility to this House. Like I said, this is not something that has come about overnight, yet we know that each and every day this House does not take action there will be more victims. Delays mean more victims. Delays

mean that the safety that could be provided to a person at 2 am, the safety that is destined to help ensure someone's life is not lost, is not provided.

The Crisafulli government has stepped up. This is on the back of what has been over a decade of change, a decade of governments in this state and in other states stepping up and saying not now, not ever to domestic and family violence. There was reform that was supported by all sides of politics in this space, yet today we see that there is a step being taken, a desire to change the course, to hold back reform, so that further studies can occur. Each and every step we take impacts the victims, like those we heard from in Toowoomba. We spoke to a victim-survivor who is in her 60s, yet fears for her life due to a younger sibling. She has been living with that fear for more than 20 years. My aspiration, my hope, for this House is that the people of this chamber put things in place that support and make that lady in Toowoomba feel safer. Our committee heard harrowing tales of the circumstances that people find themselves in. We heard from people who shared their stories and their lives, yet tonight we are being asked to delay justice. We are being asked to delay the protection for victims. I do not truly believe that that is what anyone in this chamber wants. I do not believe that anyone in this chamber truly believes that our community is safer by holding back reforms.

Tonight we see the Labor Party is playing games, and the consequences will be felt by every Queenslander. While we have a government that has invested more money in the domestic and family violence space than any former Labor government, contrary to the scare campaigns that have been run, and while we have a government that has backed our police in terms of the numbers of police, the resources they have and the laws to back them up when they are out on the beat, the Labor Party would delay that justice, delay those supports and hold back reform simply so there can be some political pointscoring. That disappoints me. It disappoints me to think that in a place where we have the opportunity to do such good work, where we can not only support the victim-survivors of yesterday but also reduce the number of victim-survivors of tomorrow we would delay that. I come back to my starting point: who lives? Who lives while we make these choices and delay activities? Who delays while we have a system that provides support for our police yet does not provide trust?

The decision we have before us is one of taking action or deciding to continue a decade of decline. Very clearly, the members on this side of the House will step up today and will vote to ensure that we take action to support victim-survivors in the domestic and family violence space. There have been very worthy activities to support and back our communities, but we will continue to put in place reform to support communities like mine, where we have felt that scourge again and again. Yet there will be others who tonight will choose to not back reform, to not support action and will cause delay. We have to ask: who lives?

We are here to back the victims of domestic and family violence in this state. We believe that the actions of this government, which supports reform in the domestic and family violence space—ironically, the fact we have come back twice in two years is a sign that we are not willing to accept that good enough is good enough. We are coming back because we want to make it better. We want to improve the system and we want to ensure that outcomes for Queenslanders are improved. We have listened to Queenslanders.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order, members! It is getting noisy.

Mr HUTTON: It is proposed that this bill be held up so an integrity unit can be set up to do reviews, yet we know that gender-centred reviews support our police in the activities they do. We know that senior officer reviews occur when that 21-year-old officer takes the call at 2 am. They are not making the decision by themselves; they have the support of the senior officer on duty. They have the capacity—there is a series of steps. We know that the current processes have professional development for our officers not only as cadets, not only in their first years, but throughout their career. However, this reform that is being put forward tonight—this reform that our parliament has the opportunity to advance to support victims, to support survivors and to ensure that there are fewer victims tomorrow—should be backed.

The question that I posed to this House at the start of my speech was: who lives? The cost of inaction is a community that is put further at risk, a community that is delayed justice because of the choices of this House. I back every day of the week that we should be putting action first. I back that every single day we should support the mums, the daughters and the girls in our community as well as the broader community itself. Vulnerable Queenslanders do not want yet another academic study. Vulnerable Queenslanders do not want to wait so we can have yet another opportunity for pointscoring without actually achieving results for them.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, there is to be no cross-chamber quarrelling.

Mr HUTTON: Queenslanders deserve action. Queenslanders deserve a government that will fight each and every day against this scourge.

Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (5.19 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the member for Waterford, the shadow attorney-general, and I do so on the basis of—

Mrs Frecklington: Shadow attorney-general?

Mr FURNER: Shadow treasurer. She was the attorney-general at one stage and did a fantastic job in that role and continues to do a fantastic job in terms of being an active member of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, which I chair. One only needs to listen to the expert evidence and the contributions made by the chair of the CCC during its public hearing last week to have some appreciation why this amendment to this bill is crucial. Everyone in this House knows that our police do an outstanding job in their duties. The men and women who wear blue are under extreme pressure at present in terms of not only dealing with enormous increases in domestic and family violence but also dealing with the other issues that they face on a regular basis with respect to many of the measures that this government has brought into this place.

I want to reflect on the contributions that both the member for Mansfield and the member for Waterford made with respect to this bill that reference the CCC. The amendment is sought with regard to implementing a police integrity unit. As I indicated earlier, the CCC has indicated its support—not only the CCC but the Police Union. I had the fortune and the privilege to work for the Police Union for a period of time before I entered politics. I always respect the contributions and the submissions it makes to our hearings. I am sure members in this place who have been former police officers would respect those views as well as the views of the CCC—our primary integrity unit that is there to represent the issues such as those that we are debating tonight in terms of a police integrity unit.

Mr McDonald: There should be a bipartisan approach.

Mr FURNER: I take that interjection: there should be a bipartisan position on this, and there is time for the minister to accept this amendment and progress it to ensure there is a police integrity unit, because what we heard from the CCC last week was that the bill raises a number of issues of significant concern in the view of the CCC. Mr Barbour went on to say—

> Whilst I would not normally do this, because of the significance of those concerns, with the indulgence of the committee, I just want to read a little from the actual submission ...

He went on further to say—

> ... that for some time we have had significant concerns and rising complaints in relation to domestic violence which is perpetrated by police officers, and also where they are victims.

We need to ensure there are measures in place to protect not only the women who suffer domestic and family violence but also our men and women in the blue uniform who attend domestic and family violence incidents that happen in our communities.

Last week I also dealt with a particular matter in my electorate. I am not going to go into too much detail, but a constituent is suffering the worst case of coercive control that I have ever seen. We need to ensure the police officers who are attending, investigating and gathering that evidence have protection under the auspices of a police integrity unit to ensure they are protected as well. The amendment that has been put forward will provide that. The minister has the opportunity to accept a sensible amendment that the opposition has put forward. We have heard about the length of time that this has been delayed. We have heard from the Deputy Premier 'that we're working hard looking into it'. Now is the time. I have had enough, and I am sure every member in this place has had enough of the scourge of domestic and family violence. It is time to act. It is not time to sit here—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Thank you, everyone. That was quite an intense number of interjections. Can we please keep it down a bit or I will have to start naming members.

Mr FURNER: It is time to provide some professionalism in this place. Screaming over the top—

Government members interjected.

Mr FURNER: Here we go. Mr Deputy Speaker, you cannot stand in this place these days without—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nanango, cease your interjections. Everyone, please cease your interjections. It is getting out of hand. Please continue, member for Ferny Grove.

Mr FURNER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I take personal offence to the comment made by the member for Hinchinbrook claiming that I have no credibility. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr CHIESA: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Please resume, member for Ferny Grove.

Mr FURNER: I once again refer to matters that have been before the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. One only needs to delve into the five-year review of the CCC that we dealt with this year. I refer to the statement of reservation that opposition members put forward with respect to that review. One also only needs to look at the commission of inquiry into the Queensland Police Service by the Hon. Deborah Richards. In her view—

The failings of the current conduct and complaints system are so great, and the risk that the system will fail to protect against serious misconduct is so significant, that a different approach is needed.

The current system should be replaced with an independent Police Integrity Unit which sits within the CCC and independently investigates complaints against police officers.

That is not necessarily the issue in terms of where it sits, but the emphasis has been made by her, made by the CCC and made by the Police Union that there must be a police integrity unit. Tonight is the time to act upon this. Tonight is the time to ensure we look at protections, as I indicated earlier, for not only the women who suffer domestic and family violence and not only for that constituent who I met with last week who has suffered from the most heinous, insidious coercive control that I have ever heard about—

Government members interjected.

Mr FURNER: Have some respect for women, for goodness' sake. Dead set. I commend the amendment moved by the member for Waterford.

Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.27 pm): I rise to speak against the amendment that has been proposed, because it is a pretty rich one. The first thing is that those who have spoken this evening in favour of the amendment that has been proposed are seeking to insert some sense of urgency in relation to a recommendation that they sat on for 22 months without action. I think they called a quick little meeting immediately before the election so they could pretend they did a little something, but ultimately those opposite failed to do the work needed to bring a PIU into place in a timely way.

In contrast, this government has already indicated that it is looking into it and it is doing the work that underpins doing this properly. Nothing about the work that is being done around a PIU necessitates delay in providing improved safety to people facing domestic and family violence. You can be in favour of a PIU all you like, but that need not stand in the way of delivering improved protections for people facing domestic and family violence right here, right now. On that basis, I move—

That the question be now put.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

AYES, 35:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 50:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, 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, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

Pairs: Mickelberg, McMahon; Perrett, O'Shea.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Ms Fentiman) negatived.

MOTION

Health Workforce Plan

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.34 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services to table in the House by 5pm on Thursday, 19 November 2026 the Queensland Health Workforce Plan.

A year ago this month, the Minister for Health released his *Queensland Health Workforce Gap Analysis* and he told Queenslanders that we would be short some 46,000 health workers, including 6,000 doctors. When he told Queenslanders that, he promised them a plan. At the time in February he said that workforce plan would be ready in the coming months. In May he said that a complex plan would be released next month. In May the next month is June. On the morning of the one-year anniversary he said the plan would be ready soon, but by that afternoon he said we might never see it. Indeed, yesterday in this chamber he implied that the plan might not ever be released. It is like he is flipping through his desk calendar hoping and wishing for a day that the Premier's office finally let him release the plan.

If he is looking for a date, I can suggest one: what about today? Somewhere in Queensland tonight, a nurse will be asked to work an extra shift because of a lack of staff. Somewhere tonight a family will be wondering if their loved one will ever get the specialist outpatient appointment that they need to find out what is wrong with them and if they need surgery. Tragically, it seems, somewhere tonight a Queenslander will call for an ambulance and die before it arrives.

These are the people who need that health workforce plan. When the health minister released that gap analysis the AMAQ called it a 'positive first step' but on the anniversary a year later they called it a 'disappointing milestone'. And they helped with much of the work. The AMA in July last year released their own workforce plan, helping the minister to do that work. Before the budget they called for the workforce plan to be in the budget. That makes sense, doesn't it? Put it in the workforce plan and fund it in the budget. However, the budget brought only bad news for our hospitals and for our health workforce. There was no growth funding—growth funding was offered but then revoked by this government—and the budget papers show that they are planning very few extra staff. In fact, a bunch of HHSs have no extra staff in their budget papers. Cairns HHS have none. Central Queensland, Darling Downs, South West and West Moreton and the Queensland Children's Hospital are budgeted for just eight extra staff. They are all being forced to do more with less, resulting in blocked hospitals that ambos that cannot off-load their patients into, leaving them stuck at the ramp and unable to get back out in the community. As we have learned this week, more and more Queenslanders are dying because our ambos cannot get out of the ramp. That is why this workforce plan is so important.

This motion asks: what is taking so long? How many times has this plan been to cabinet? Who keeps blocking it? That is where it becomes the Premier's responsibility. I happen to know that the Premier, the director-general of Health, the commissioner of the ambulance service, and the health minister have been meeting just now in the Premier's office having crisis talks. The Premier could act right now and tell the health minister: 'It is okay, buddy, you can table it. It is okay, you can. You are allowed'—or the Premier could get the report himself and come in here and table it, because that is the workforce plan our health staff need and that Queensland patients who are dying waiting for ambulances need.

(Time expired)

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.39 pm): Well, 'just now' I move the following amendment—

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

> on the Leader of the Opposition to approve by 5 pm on Thursday, 19 November 2026 the release of all cabinet, CBRC and any other documents from the previous term of government, including all briefing notes, attachments, and any other related material concerning the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan, including the Capacity Expansion Program and workforce plans.

Mr Speaker, we have long known that the former government in its thrall to the CFMEU has experienced blowouts in their failed capacity expansion. This motion simply says release the documents to tell the people of Queensland what you knew, when you knew it and why you failed to address it—why you did not take the necessary steps to ensure the funds were available; why you did not take the steps necessary to ensure that BPIC did not slow all these works down. We have the evidence. We had the evidence early on with respect to the independent review of the capacity expansion program. What does that review say? It says on page 3—

Major cost drivers across the CEP have been identified and examined, and section 5 sets out an analysis ... These included site infrastructure requirements, site conditions, scope change, market conditions and the productivity and cost impacts arising from the previous BPICs regime.

Page 51 of the independent review states—

Evidence provided to the Review illustrates that the major impact arising from BPICs is on-site productivity being around 20% lower than in other Australian jurisdictions. The various arrangements result in fewer working days per week across the CEP projects producing longer project durations and resulting higher costs ...

Then it goes on to say—

Additional costs are seen in the direct subcontract trade package prices which sourced by the MCs, and then additional MC preliminaries and overheads are incurred as a result of project durations being 20% longer than might otherwise be. One industry association has described cost increases from BPICs were 70% attributable to productivity...

It further states—

... on Bundaberg, the current MC estimates that this pre-qualification and productivity challenge represent approximately $135.6 million of additional cost…

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, I have already cautioned you. You are now warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: That has meant that we now have a hospital bed shortage. That has meant that we cannot get out to people as quickly as we would like. That is why we are investing in making sure our hospitals are delivered on time and on budget, just as it was in Hervey Bay where we have opened 35 beds in that facility and the new helipad on top. What did other industry people say? Adrian Dwyer from Infrastructure Partnerships Australia said Labor's plan was little more than a mirage of media releases. Earlier I quoted the Civil Contractors Federation who basically said that for every two hospitals we could have got a third one built for free. Infrastructure Partnerships Australia said that the former government's hospital delivery ambitions were 'commendable, but blind optimism and unbridled enthusiasm was never a plausible delivery strategy'.

Costs have gone up and Queenslanders deserve to know what those opposite knew about the costs: when did they go up and what was their plan to deal with them? I have it on reliable authority that the member for Waterford knew the problem. I have it on reliable authority that the member for Waterford went to CBRC and said, 'We don't have enough money.' I have it on reliable authority that the member for Waterford said, 'You know what? I want to suspend all the sustaining capital programs and I'm going to pull it forward from the forward two years in order to be able to fund the program and I'll come back, cap in hand, and ask for more money because we don't have enough to get it going.' What did they know, what decisions did they make, why are they afraid to front up and provide the information? If they have nothing to hide they will produce the information. This motion calls on them to answer the question why they did nothing and allowed the bed shortage to persist to the extent that it is causing the problems now.

(Time expired)

Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) 5.44 pm): It is very interesting that for two years we have had the government saying, 'You did too much on the hospital infrastructure fund, it was not sustainable. That is why we had to put back eight hospital expansions,' and then this week this embattled health minister comes in and says, 'You didn't build enough beds.' Get your actual argument straight. Those two statements are mutually contradictory. In two years of rhetoric we have seen those opposite backflip and say something opposite.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, that was designed to disrupt the House. You are warned.

Mr BAILEY: Is it any wonder that 58 per cent of *Courier-Mail* readers think this minister should resign now because of his failures? I table the poll in the *Courier-Mail*.

Tabled paper: Extract from article from the Courier-Mail, undated, regarding ambulance wait times.

I might add that the *Courier-Mail* is not actually a lefty bastion when it comes to their readership. The member for Clayfield's own conservative base is revolting at his failures in the health portfolio.

Mr KRAUSE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The clock had not been restarted and I was going to ask that it be restarted.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Start the clock.

Mr BAILEY: There would be plenty of constituents in Hamilton, Ascot and Hendra voting in the *Courier-Mail* poll to get rid of this minister. They are onto his failures, as this opposition has been for the past two years. His record is: eight hospital expansions delayed for years; the axing of the Queensland cancer centre; a specialist waitlist crisis out of control; and the banning of pill testing and public gender affirming health care. He has now missed so many deadlines on the health workforce plan his solution is to just stop giving deadlines at all.

A year ago, his own government's analysis revealed Queensland would need another 46,000 health workers by 2032, including up to 6,000 doctors. The minister promised a comprehensive workforce plan. When journalists questioned the delays, the health minister arrogantly declared he would not be held to a deadline for a headline—but it was his own deadline. He makes the promise, misses the deadline then lectures journalists who ask him about it. He is out of touch, arrogant and aloof. After two years and two budgets from this minister, five ramping deaths in one weekend, record ramping in July last year, and Mr Bradford, a constituent of mine, dying waiting for an ambulance at his Annerley home last month, our magnificent but stretched health staff need more support. It is obvious to anyone, yet all we get from this dithering health minister is inaction and slippery word games at media conferences.

Just over a month ago a Moorooka resident I know had to go to the PA Hospital emergency department after hours on a Wednesday night. They had only had one doctor on all night in the emergency department. This is in a major hospital in Brisbane. Needless to say, everybody is waiting a very long time. How many times does this health minister need to be told that we need more staff in emergency departments before we wakes up and finally does something about it. Patients and over-stretched health staff need energy not lethargy from this minister. They need a health workforce plan now.

Only yesterday doctors were sounding the alarm once again. An AMA Queensland survey found that nearly 64 per cent of senior doctors surveyed reported burnout. Twenty-four per cent anticipated resigning within two years. These figures, from the independent and esteemed AMA, indicate a health staff catastrophe looming large for Queensland patients, but this health minister still will not give a date for the long-overdue health workforce plan and has indicated there might not be one released at all. This is the government that discontinued Labor's Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme, decimating the state's ability to attract and retain health workers across regional, remote and rural Queensland.

The member for Clayfield spent 12 months promising a health workforce plan which he has failed to deliver because he has no clout in cabinet and he cannot get it through. Premier Crisafulli has hung him out to dry once again. We know he never wanted to be the health minister. We know that because the health minister himself regularly whinges and sulks publicly about having the health portfolio—as he did at the Queensland Media Club luncheon this year. He spent four years as shadow attorney-general but after the election the Premier, who remembers how he was treated by the member for Clayfield in the 2017-20 term, dudded him deliberately. He gave the Attorney-General job to the member for Nanango.

Meanwhile, Queensland's specialist waitlist crisis surges, with more than 83,000 extra Queenslanders languishing on the specialist waitlist for an appointment since the LNP was elected. Doctors are burning out. Hospitals desperately need more staff. Meanwhile, ramping is rampant across this state. It is significantly up under this government. Townsville is up 159 per cent, Gladstone is up 158 per cent, Cairns is up 86 per cent and the Sunshine Coast is up 57 per cent. The list goes on—Rockhampton, Prince Charles, PA, Caboolture, Mackay, Redland, QEII, Logan. Across this state ramping has surged almost nine per cent proportionally since the election of those opposite. It is time for the health minister to do what he promised and has failed to do: release the plan. It is long overdue. Otherwise that 58 per cent of people who think this minister should resign will surge to a lot higher figure, just like the ramping is going up under his watch.

(Time expired)

Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (5.50 pm): I love following the member for Miller, who does not even rate on the leadership contest, and I table the latest one from the *Courier-Mail*.

Tabled paper: Extract from article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 18 November 2026, titled 'Steven Miles rejects leadership unrest after unapproved apology'.

I rise in support of the amendments moved by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. It seems that the member for Murrumba has discovered a remarkable sense of urgency about the Queensland Health workforce. He wants the document by five o'clock tomorrow! After a decade in government, Labor now wants Queenslanders to believe that every hour counts. If those opposite are serious about accountability and disclosure, let's have it all. Release every document associated with Labor's Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan. Release the briefing papers, the cabinet papers and the advice. Release all the material that sat behind the promises that Queenslanders were sold before the election because Queenslanders deserve to know what those opposite knew and when they knew it.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers.

Ms BATES: Queenslanders deserve to know whether Labor knew the plan was destined for delays, cost blowouts and broken promises. Labor had a decade in government, but apparently only now every hour counts. Where was this sense of urgency under Queensland's worst health minister, the member for Waterford, when Queenslanders were spending hours in ambulances on ramps?

Before I entered parliament, I worked as a nurse and a hospital administrator. I know what happens when a ward is understaffed, when experienced clinicians leave and when those left behind are expected to pick up the pieces. For years, as shadow health minister I brought the concerns of patients, nurses, doctors and paramedics into this chamber.

Ms Boyd interjected.

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

Ms BATES: Those opposite buried their heads in the sand. The member for Woodridge had a turn as health minister and put a lock on his door. The member for Murrumba then had a turn, then the former member for Redcliffe and then the member for Waterford. There were four health ministers, each inheriting the failures of the previous minister and each leaving a few more failures for their successor.

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the words used by the member for Mudgeeraba and ask her to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.

Ms BATES: I withdraw. Let's cast our minds back to May 2024 when I stood in this House and outlined Labor's record: ambulance ramping was at 45.5 per cent and there were more than 60,000 people waiting for elective surgery and almost 290,000 people waiting for a specialist appointment. The member for Murrumba was premier. The member for Waterford promised to reduce ramping to 28 per cent and delivered 45.5 per cent. She missed her own specialist outpatient waiting list target by almost 39,000 Queenslanders. However, if there was a baby to cuddle or a camera to smile for, the member for Waterford was never far away. Maybe she should have spent more time with the mothers who could not give birth in their own communities and were giving birth on the side of the road.

In February 2023, I moved a motion in this chamber demanding answers about maternity services in Gladstone, Chinchilla and Biloela. The Gladstone maternity service—as the member for Gladstone would well know; we thought he was going to resign—had been on bypass for nearly 230 days. When we raised concerns about the devastating failures at Mackay Base Hospital, Labor accused us of scaremongering. It was Queensland women who suffered the most harm.

As minister for women, the member for Waterford could not bring herself to condemn her mates in the CFMEU. As minister for health, she could not deliver on her own promises. Back then I called her a fraud, a phony and a failure and I stand by those remarks today.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for a period of one hour.

Mr Mellish: Really?

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, really.

Whereupon the member for Aspley withdrew from the chamber at 5.53 pm.

Ms BATES: What did Labor's relationship with the CFMEU deliver for the Queensland health system? A hospital expansion program with a $7 billion blowout! Labor's hospital plan was described by industry as little more than a mirage of media releases. You cannot treat patients in a media release, perform surgery in an artist's impression or roster nurses to hospital wards that do not exist.

Labor's grand workforce strategy, released in the dying months of its government, did not even include the Queensland Ambulance Service. Apparently, the ambulances ramped outside hospitals were not enough of a reminder. Labor's last budget provided for a reduction of more than 1,700 Queensland Health staff in 2025-26 alone. Perhaps the member for Murrumba should spend less time demanding documents and more time reading his own.

While Labor is busy trying to rewrite history, the Crisafulli LNP government is rebuilding our health workforce. We have more than 10,000 additional health workers than there were in November 2024, including more than 7,200 in clinical roles. There have been record intakes of first-year doctors for the past two years. We have pay agreements covering more than 122,000 health workers. There is accommodation for rural health workers and funding for the midwife-to-patient ratios that Labor legislated but never funded. Within my own portfolio, we are training the next generation of Queensland nurses. We funded 2,000 additional free Diploma of Nursing places for 2026, and last week I announced another 2,000 places for 2027, which is 4,000 additional opportunities for Queenslanders to train as enrolled nurses. As a former nurse, I am proud to be delivering those opportunities.

The member for Murrumba wants accountability. Queenslanders held him accountable in October 2024, and there is a very good reason that he is moving this motion from that side of the chamber. He had his chance and the member for Waterford had hers. The Crisafulli LNP government is doing what those opposite spent a decade telling Queenslanders they would do: we are delivering. I support the minister's amendment.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Inala, I remind those who are on the warning list. They are the members for Miller, Lytton, Coomera and Pine Rivers.

Mrs NIGHTINGALE (Inala—ALP) (5.55 pm): I support this motion which calls for the tabling of the Queensland health workforce plan in the House by 5 pm tomorrow. It has been nearly a year since the minister told us about the workforce analysis he had asked for. Projections suggest that by 2032 the Queensland public health system would need another 46,000 staff and, unless the government acts, we could be short the equivalent of 6,000 full-time doctors. I would like to see what the minister has done with those figures and what the plan is. During this debate, we have heard that the plan seems to have a never-ending timeline. It has been nearly a year. How many times is the minister going to ask the people who are working short to wait a little longer?

It takes some nerve to claim credit for a hospital expansion while going after the rights of the very people you will ask to work in it and then failing to release the plan that is supposed to help staff it. I visited the QEII hospital expansion project when Labor was in government because it is a Labor project. I table a photo of that visit.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting the member for Inala, Mrs Margie Nightingale, at QEII Hospital Expansion.

Members will notice the plain maroon and white bunting with 'QEII Hospital Expansion' written on it. Just because this government has wasted taxpayer money replacing it with LNP blue bunting does not make it an LNP project. We heard the minister asking to see Labor's plan. I wonder why that is. It is because he has no plan of his own! This government is trying to claim Labor's work as its own, while letting down patients and workers.

I know what it means when experienced nurses finish a shift exhausted but still feel guilty for the things that they did not get time to do. I know that no nurse leaves work happy when patients are waiting longer than they should. If the minister wants to take credit, he might start by thanking the nurses who are giving up their days off and working through exhaustion to cover shifts.

Government members interjected.

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: I hear them groaning in the background but this matters. Our health workforce matters. Every crew still waiting to hand over a patient is a crew that cannot take another call. I know they are feeling the pressure. I know this takes its toll on them. I thank those workers for their hard work. I will continue to call on this government to do more to help them, especially at QEII—

the hospital that so many families in my electorate rely on and where ambulance ramping reached 65.8 per cent in September.

I will bring this into perspective. Last year, a woman rang my office after her 75-year-old father fell in his kitchen. The family thought that he had broken his hip. They called for an ambulance at least six times. They tried moving him themselves, but he was in far too much pain and they were worried that they would cause him more injury. When his daughter rang me the next morning, he was still on the kitchen floor, more than 12 hours after the first call. I cannot tell the House why that particular ambulance took that long, but I can tell the minister that the family deserves answers.

There are now more than 376,000 Queenslanders waiting for a first specialist appointment. Queenslanders may have believed the slick slogans of the Premier and the promises of this health minister in 2024, but I can tell members that when people are losing their sight while they wait to see a specialist just to get on to the surgery list they feel abandoned. They feel abandoned when they worry about whether an ambulance will arrive when they fall, whether their parents can get treatment when they need it and whether their local hospital has enough staff and enough beds. Those are reasonable expectations.

The minister has already told Queenslanders how big the workforce gap is, but we are hearing very little about the plan to fix it. In fact, that plan, which continues to stay on the never-never, needs to be delivered. It needs to be delivered by 5 pm tomorrow. Tomorrow the minister can show Queenslanders what he plans to do. He can show our health workforce that they will not be alone anymore and that they will not be struggling against all odds to try to care for patients in need. He can show people across Queensland and people in my electorate that this government does understand and will do what it needs to do. Instead, tonight all we hear from them is a call for Labor to release our information and our plan. It is about time they came through with their own plans. It is about time they stood up and did what was needed to back Queenslanders and back our health workers.

(Time expired)

Mr HEAD (Callide—LNP) (6.01pm): It is my pleasure to speak tonight on the amendment moved by the Minister for Health because those opposite have a long history of failing Queenslanders when it comes to health. There is a lot of chatter over on the other side about who is going to take the member for Murrumba's job when he ultimately falls on his sword. There are a lot of anonymous leaks over there that are perhaps not so anonymous. The member for Woodridge might have something to do with that.

As far as all the polls going around and those opposite tipping who would be their next leader, or who should be the leader of the Queensland Labor Party moving forward, the four names that continue to be mentioned are the same four names that sat around the cabinet table and failed Queenslanders day in and day out right across every corner of Queensland, including the electorate of Callide. Those failures go far and wide.

I have spoken in this chamber many times about their failures in maternity services across Callide. They sat around the cabinet table when there was not a single birthing service in the whole electorate of Callide across 14 hospitals. They are the four faces that apparently remain the frontrunners to lead Labor moving forward—the member for Murrumba, the member for Woodridge, the member for Waterford and the member for Gaven; the former cabinet ministers. I table that article with the headline about the four members of the shadow cabinet.

Mr SPEAKER: Do not use that as a prop.

Tabled paper: Extract from article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 18 November 2026, titled 'Steven Miles rejects leadership unrest after unapproved apology'.

Mr HEAD: While they sat around the cabinet table, they also oversaw an amplitude of failures in Queensland Health. Those failures, of course, will take many years to fix. We are getting on with the job of fixing them.

What are we doing? Across the state we have delivered over 10,000 frontline staff to Queensland Health. That is a great step. Across regions relevant to Callide: in the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, we have employed over 450 staff; in the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, it is about 400; and in the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service it is about 450. These 1,300 frontline staff are servicing the healthcare regions that cover the Callide electorate, and that is an incredible milestone. There are also 700 additional Queensland Ambulance staff.

What else have we done for rural Queenslanders when it comes to delivering easier access to healthcare services? We have increased the kilometre allowance for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme by about 30 per cent, something incredibly important to my community.

Something those opposite never wanted to mention—and it is an important issue for my community when it comes to delivering easier access to health services—was the number of times members of my community were transported through various means, whether it be via ambulance, helicopter or RFDS, to get treatment at major hospitals and then were discharged, having to find their own way home. It is something that members of the community, especially across the North Burnett, keep asking me what we can do about. I say one of the most important things we can do is continue to improve local health services and reinstate a lot of the local health services that were closed or shut down many times under those opposite. I continue to work hard with HHSs across the electorate and with community members to ensure that that issue in the long term gets addressed. The changes to the PTSS as well help that significantly.

We have also saved the Chinchilla Hospital redevelopment—a redevelopment promised by those opposite, but never funded, never properly planned, with no community consultation and was on track to never be delivered as those opposite had promised. To the members across Chinchilla who might say, 'Oh, that is just more politician speak,' tonight with our motion, the member for Murrumba can release documents to show us. He can prove me wrong if he wishes. I suspect he will not be able to, even if he releases the documents we are calling on him to release. I am looking forward to the Leader of the Opposition releasing those documents to show the community of Chinchilla, and the many other communities across Callide that were promised health upgrades, that, frankly, they were not going to see them.

To the Chinchilla community, I encourage you to get online and have your say to progress the detailed business case for the Chinchilla Hospital redevelopment because we are finally having our chance to have a say in rural communities. This is something I have been fighting for for a very long time and we are finally getting on with the job of doing it.

We are also, of course, fixing the doctor shortages right across Callide, including in Moura. We are working hard there to make sure that that community has permanent doctors in the hospital. We got the aged-care facility on track. We saved the Gladstone nurse-led clinic as well—a great facility funded by the Crisafulli government. It is now delivering services seven days a week, from 7 am to 7 pm, thanks to the Crisafulli government.

(Time expired)

Mr RICHMOND (Stafford—ALP) (6.06 pm): At least six people have died waiting for ambulances under the watch of this LNP government. Think of the families wondering if things could have been different. Think of the healthcare workers, people like my sister, and the moral injury, the anguish that they must feel, overrun by patient demand, without the support, the colleagues and the facilities required to provide the lifesaving care they have been trained to provide. That is why this motion is so important because this parliament needs to hold that minister to account.

Based on question time today, he is out of his depth and refuses to take responsibility. With about as much emotional intelligence as a thumbtack, he flailed around, trying to blame everyone but himself for the ills of the health system.

Why is the workforce strategy so important? If done properly, it will offer a glimmer of hope or at least some comfort that this government will do something—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to unparliamentary language. I seek your guidance in relation to the comments made by the member for Stafford

Mr RICHMOND: If it assists, I am happy to withdraw the word 'thumbtack'.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Stafford. You have the call.

Mr RICHMOND: If done properly, this workforce strategy will offer a glimmer of hope, some comfort that this government will do something—anything—to help those on the front line dealing with surging pressure.

What should be in this health workforce plan? I have some suggestions. For a start, the government could commit to backing down on its reported attempts to cut the pay of cancer care workers by 25 per cent. These are people who are literally curing cancer. Yet, based on reports, it would seem to be the perspective of those opposite that they are paid too much. They could release a workforce plan that gives allied health workers in the HPDO EB a much needed pay rise, one that the majority of them have been deprived of because of the government's referral of that EB to arbitration. What this Queensland Health workforce strategy could do is make a commitment not to outsource and privatise our health system. Those opposite might scream that it is a scare campaign, but I can tell you that the spectre of privatisation looms large under those opposite.

We have already heard about private hospitals having staff stationed in public EDs to transfer patients to private facilities. When it comes to outsourcing, I speak from personal experience. I worked at the sometimes praised and often maligned Australian Workers' Union by those opposite, and I recall the negotiations for the most recent EB for operational health workers. The main issue in contention in that agreement was whether the government would come after the nation-leading, anti-outsourcing protections that those workers had fought for. It was only after those workers—some of the lowest paid in Queensland's health system—ran a concerted campaign that Queensland Health committed to not reducing those conditions. Now we know that they are trying to tip the balance of power against workers so they can come after those conditions and outsource their labour.

When it comes to prospective privatisation, the Prince Charles Hospital is at the top of the LNP's hit list. After the much awaited Prince Charles Hospital master plan was released, I noticed a very interesting detail. It had earmarked part of the Prince Charles campus as being ripe for a new private hospital. Who in their right mind, looking at the increasing demand facing our public health system, would decide that flogging off part of a public hospital to a private for-profit provider was a good idea? The LNP would, it would seem.

The final thing that this workforce plan needs to provide is the beds that our health workers so desperately need. Let's take the Prince Charles Hospital as an example. The health minister has stood up and said that he is delivering the beds, but he will not release a tender until the second half of 2027. Meanwhile, the tragedies that we heard about today in question time will continue to mount up. Every second that the health minister and this LNP government delay means that the blood that is spilled in Queensland hospitals will be on their hands. The reality is this is because of their distorted priorities. They are happy to prioritise their multinational mates rather than our friends on the front line. They should hang their heads in shame.

(Time expired)

Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (6.11 pm): I am pleased to rise tonight to support the amendment to the motion moved by the health minister with regard to the Labor Party's previous so-called health and hospital plan. The first four words of that plan were 'once upon a time'. It is a fairytale. It has been a fairytale from the start, and it was just backed up again by the member for Stafford.

This is the MO of the Labor Party. Before an election campaign, they start to make a series of promises which are unrealistic, so far into the future and unfunded. After an election loss—whether at the state or federal level—and the adults come into the room and realise these things are unfunded, the Labor Party come in here and claim that things have been cut. Guess what? You cannot cut what never existed. It never existed.

There was no greater example than the member for Stafford's campaign in the by-election when the other false promise came through. He said that 93 beds were allegedly cut. Nonsense! It was never there. It could not have been cut. Guess what? The people of Stafford saw through it: a deep red Labor seat had an eight per cent swing against it whilst in opposition. Have you ever heard of that happening? It was only through the socialist preferences that they got up.

This is the classic way they operate: promise after promise after promise is unfulfilled and unfunded, and then they come in here and run these scare campaigns. The public are sick of it. That is why they are sitting on the opposition benches. People have had enough of it. They are sick of this rubbish. They know deception when they see it. It is important that we call this out. They just never learn. It is the same old story time and again.

One of the issues that identified the fakeness of their hospital plan was the fact that BPIC was going to make sure it blew out way beyond what was apparently promised and cause more and more delays. Thank goodness we have a government that has the courage—

Mr Power interjected.

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

Mr MANDER:—and the financial capability to say that these BPICs could never happen again in the future, and thank goodness they have not. We are already seeing the results: contractors and building companies are confident to come and operate in Queensland. They refused to come from down south because it was not viable for them. Now they are here and we are seeing the results in so many different ways, which is great to see.

When we came into power, the government ordered a review into their hospital plan by expert Sam Sangster. In his summary of their hospital plan, he stated—

In each case continuing with the currently scoped and programmed projects is an exercise in futility.

It would be an exercise in futility because it was not real. We see this time and again. I remember when a Gabba Olympics stadium was first mooted by the Palaszczuk government. They said that it was going to cost a billion dollars. When asked where they got that figure from, no answer was given. The Auditor-General did an investigation about a year after that. When he was asked where the financial backing was or where the evaluation for that figure was, he said, 'The only thing I could find was a press statement.' That is how they operate.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection. This is the way the previous government worked. If they had confidence in their plan, they would have no hesitation in providing all of the documentation—the cabinet papers and the briefing papers. As the member for Callide said, it is easy to dismiss what we are saying.

Mr Head: Prove it.

Mr MANDER: They should prove it. Finally, the member for Miller has talked about surveys, and I have a couple of surveys here from when he was the transport minister and admitted the $2.4 billion cost blowout. The *Courier-Mail* polls were not 57 per cent for the negative. Ninety-five per cent of the people said he should be sacked. He took their advice and sacked himself afterwards.

(Time expired)

Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (6.16 pm): There can be few greater responsibilities of government than ensuring the health and wellbeing of its citizens. It is a fundamental obligation of public office and one against which any government should be judged. That is why the failure of the Crisafulli LNP government to release its Queensland health workforce plan is so profoundly concerning. It is not some routine administrative document; it is a blueprint for the future of our public health system, the sustainability of our frontline workforce and, ultimately, the safety and wellbeing of millions of Queenslanders.

Almost a year ago the Minister for Health's own commissioned workforce gap analysis revealed that Queensland would require an additional 46,000 health workers by 2032, with a potential shortfall of 6,000 full-time-equivalent doctors unless decisive action was taken. The government cannot plead ignorance. It cannot claim it was not warned. It can no longer justify its inaction. In February we were told that the plan was a few months away. In May we were told that it would be released in June. Here we are in November, approaching Christmas, and Queenslanders are still waiting. While the minister procrastinates, patients are suffering, frontline workers are burning out and experienced medical professionals are walking away from our public health system.

The latest AMA Queensland Hospital Health Check report makes for deeply disturbing reading. Almost one in four senior doctors surveyed anticipate resigning within the next two years, and around half of both junior and senior doctors fear that fatigue could contribute to clinical error. These are highly trained medical professionals expressing genuine concerns about their capacity to safely care for Queenslanders. The circumstances confronting our nursing workforce are equally alarming: 2,422 nurses left Queensland hospitals in 2024-25—the highest number in four years. We cannot hope to build a health workforce of tomorrow while failing to retain the experienced professionals of today.

Nowhere are the consequences of inadequate workforce planning more apparent than in regional Queensland. In my own community of Cairns, we are witnessing a growing disconnect between the government's announcements about hospital infrastructure and the reality confronting frontline health workers. Earlier this year, Cairns Hospital opened 32 additional beds as part of a refurbishment initiated under the previous Labor government. Amazingly, there is no corresponding increase in the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service's workforce allocation reflected in the 2026-27 budget papers.

Where are the additional nurses? Where are the doctors, allied health professionals and support staff required to service this expanded capacity? It is appalling. I am increasingly hearing from nurses and doctors at the Cairns Hospital who are deeply concerned about chronic understaffing, excessive workloads and mounting pressure on their colleagues. The consequences are becoming increasingly apparent. Ambulance ramping at Cairns Hospital reached 48.6 per cent in September this year compared with 26.1 per cent when Labor left office in October 2024.

Government members interjected.

Mr HEALY: You can laugh. Go and talk to our doctors up there.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the Speaker.

Mr HEALY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. That represents an extraordinary deterioration of 86 per cent under the Crisafulli LNP government. Almost half of all patients arriving by ambulance now experience ramping. Across Queensland more than 376,000 patients are waiting for an initial specialist appointment, an increase of more than 83,000 since this LNP government came to office. These are not simply statistics on a departmental spreadsheet. These are our parents, our children, our friends and our neighbours. They are people living with pain, uncertainty and the anxiety of not knowing what they will receive and when they will receive it.

Compounding these circumstances was the government's decision to abolish the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme, an important mechanism for attracting health professionals to regional and remote Queensland. How can a government profess its commitment to regional health care whilst dismantling incentives to attract the very people upon whom those services depend. A credible workforce plan must address recruitment, retention, regional workforce distribution, training pathways, succession planning, safe staff levels and the long-term funding necessary to deliver these commitments.

Amongst all of this absolute disaster, all we read about up in the far north is the billions being spent on stadiums down here in the south-east. For many of us in regional Queensland it is very clear where this government's priorities lie.

Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.21 pm): The hide of the Labor Party to come in here and lecture the Crisafulli government about health planning—the party that left hospital projects over budget with essential services missing. What an absolute joke! Just ask anyone in Toowoomba. What was their plan for Toowoomba? Not only were they going to split the campus and divide the workforce; they had not even planned for any extra people. I would love to see the documents that have been asked for, because they will show the plan for how they were going to run two campuses. We know that the independent review found a $680 million shortfall in funding for the Toowoomba Hospital project. That is a substantial failure. It does not even look at the staff that were going to be shared between two campuses and how we were going to transport all of the patients backwards and forwards between two campuses. What a disaster of a plan.

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on, member for Toowoomba North. Member for Greenslopes, you have continuously interjected. You are now warned. Member for Toowoomba North, you have the call.

Mr WATTS: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We know there would not have been enough ambulances, there would not have been enough staff and there would not have been enough nurses. It was a complete and utter disaster. Nobody in their right mind would contemplate it, but it was a political fix that the Labor Party put in. I would love to see the documents that recommended they should split this campus.

The Crisafulli government's Hospital Rescue Plan provides for 10 major expansions and more than 2,600 additional beds statewide, but Toowoomba will grow to 538 overnight beds, including 118 additional beds—on one campus, most importantly. I thank every clinician and all of the staff for the great job they are doing, limping along in a hospital that was left derelict, underfunded, undersupplied and under-resourced by the previous Labor government. They are doing the best they can, but we know they needed a new hospital sooner than these guys in the Labor Party were going to deliver. That new hospital is well underway. If you drive up the range crossing you will see a great big one-campus hospital coming along where 538 beds will be available. By the way, in that hospital we will have more dialysis and a cardiac lab. We will have broader services generally. There are mental health beds. This is what the people of Darling Downs and Toowoomba needed. This was the plan they needed. I thank the health minister for bringing this plan forward for the people of Toowoomba. It is a fully planned and integrated hospital.

In Darling Downs and the south-west we have seen 520 staff employed since we came to government up to the middle of last year. That will continue to expand because we know we need more health professionals. That is why USQ, UQ and the various teaching universities in Toowoomba are putting placements together so that people can study in regional areas, because we know that if they study in regional areas they will stay in regional areas. This is a far cry from the disaster that was a completely unplanned political stopgap measure put together by the Labor Party. They come into this place and try to deceive the people of Queensland that they had a plan. If those opposite do not want to be held accountable for deceiving the people of Queensland, put your plan on the table. Show us what it looks like. Give us the documents. I guarantee they will not.

We are planning 2,000 free Diploma of Nursing places for next year because we know we are going to need more nurses. We are working with UniSQ and Southern Queensland Rural Health to demonstrate that we can provide these people in local areas. We give them opportunities to study in local areas and we give them an opportunity to do their entire degree in Western Queensland, and that will make the difference. Whether it is Roma, Charleville or St George, the principle is clear. People who are trained locally can build rural careers and they will stay locally.

After a decade of decline where was Labor's credible, funded plan for Toowoomba? Where was it? Where is it? I do not believe it. Bring the documents into this House and prove me wrong. If you do not bring them into this House then you were misleading the people of Queensland and Toowoomba all along. Unlike the Labor Party, which has no plan, we are now building the facilities we need in our region and we will provide the staff we need to run those facilities.

(Time expired)

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, your luck has run out. You are now warned.



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.27 pm): I rise in the House this evening to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I move the following amendment to the amendment—

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

> The Premier and the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services to approve by 5 pm on Thursday, 19 November 2026 the release of all cabinet, CBRC and any other documents from this term of government, including all meeting minutes, briefing notes, attachments and any other related material concerning the Queensland Health Workforce Plan.

The truth is that Queensland's health system is failing. Queensland's health system is flatlining and Queenslanders are paying for all of that with their lives. Queenslanders are dying waiting for ambulances—ambulances that never arrive, ambulances that are left for hours ramped at Queensland public hospitals that are jam-packed with sick Queenslanders. Meanwhile, our valiant health workers across the state, particularly our paramedics, are battling against the odds to get the job done. They are disillusioned, disenfranchised and in distress. The No. 1 thing that would make a difference for that Queensland Health workforce and our Queensland paramedics would be a Queensland Health workforce plan, which is why the opposition calls on the government to release that plan in accordance with the terms of the motion before the House. The truth of the matter also is that it is a code 1, lights and sirens emergency for Queensland Health. Unfortunately, the person behind the steering wheel in the ambulance to respond to this is the member for Clayfield.

I do not know what was worse: the contribution that the health minister made in the House tonight or the contribution that the health minister made in the House last night. Six people have died in a very short period of time waiting for a Queensland ambulance that never came. They have died in agony and distress, with family members on the phone repeatedly calling triple-0, desperate for help and assistance. In those circumstances, you would have thought Queensland's health minister would have been applying himself day and night to solve that crisis for the benefit of sick and distressed Queenslanders—but, no, the health minister found the time to come into the House last night and give a lecture on economics for six and a half minutes, let alone the time he spent preparing that speech. This is not a government or a minister who has their priorities right. The fact that the health minister would spend time coming in here to lecture on economics—and to vote against a bill of course that would have lowered fuel prices—just demonstrates the failure of this government and the wrong priorities that it has.

This government is willing to gift Adani $500 million in a tax break but it does not have the money to spend on our Ambulance Service. This government has $600 million to spend on an arena in Brisbane which the people of Queensland will never own and never control. That is the priority of this government. This government has more than $1 billion to spend on a National Aquatic Centre that no-one recommended, but the Deputy Premier said it should be built because he thought he was smarter than everyone else in the room. This demonstrates a government that has the wrong priorities.

Mr McDonald: That's not what Queenslanders think.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. This is a government that accepted a recommendation from the Auditor-General to produce a consolidated whole of Olympic Games budget that his committee approved, but it has still not released it. That is why these projects for the Olympics are blowing out. This is costing Queenslanders their lives because the health system is failing under this health minister and this LNP government. Every member of this chamber should support that

amendment so the government can be honest with Queenslanders—instead of shirking from honesty and transparency—and release all of the details relevant to the Queensland Health workforce plan. Unless Queenslanders and the Queensland Health workforce see that, they know this government will continue to fail them.

(Time expired)

Mrs YOUNG (Redlands—LNP) (6.32 pm): The opposition wants to talk about plans. I want to talk about what those plans mean for the people in Redlands, because when a Redlands family arrives at Redland Hospital with a sick child or an elderly parent who needs medical attention, they are not asking how many plans have been written. They want delivery, and they are asking whether the doctors, nurses, beds and services are all there when they need them.

In 2020 the former Labor government promised Redland Hospital a new intensive care unit. They said it was going to be completed in 2022, but 2022 came and went and so did 2023. In October 2024, when Redlanders had their say on the former government's performance, that ICU still was not operational. That is why the minister's amendment matters. What did Labor's cabinet know about the delivery timelines? What advice did they receive about the workforce needed to operate those new facilities, to operate that ICU? What decisions were made when those timelines slipped? These are questions Redlanders deserve answers to.

Under the Crisafulli government, that intensive care unit is now staffed and operational, and 37 additional inpatient beds have opened. We have also delivered an $8.3 million expansion of the transit care hub which has increased capacity from 12 to 19 spaces. It is operating 24 hours a day and supporting more than 7,000 patients annually. It is staffed. We have introduced specialist mental health nurses into our emergency department, providing earlier assessment and support to patients experiencing a mental health crisis.

I want to give a big shout-out to Bonita and Preetty, who are specialist nurses the minister and I met recently when the minister came to Redland Hospital. The minister has been to Redland Hospital a number of times. When he came before that, he announced that Redland Hospital would have its first MRI machine. At the moment, because the former Labor government did not deliver an MRI for Redlands, it means they have to take staff off the floor of the wards and go off site to get an MRI. Under this government, we will deliver an MRI so more local families will be able to access important diagnostic services closer to their home.

Hospital buildings mean very little without the people who work inside them. Since November 2024 the Crisafulli government has added more than 10,000 health workforce FTE across Queensland, including more than 7,000 clinical positions. Importantly, for our region in Redlands, Metro South Health has recorded an increase of more than 1,500 to their workforce. That is delivering. That is not just planning; it is actually putting people in our facilities.

The opposition wants transparency about health workforce planning. Let's have transparency about the former government's hospital plans, their capacity expansion program and the workforce assumptions behind their many promises. Let's see what advice was provided and what decisions were made because the people of Redlands deserve more than another announcement. They deserve delivery. They deserve hospital beds that are open, ICUs that are staffed, healthcare professionals on the ground and services they can access closer to home. The record from those opposite means that Redlanders were left without beds and without staff in that hospital.

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

AYES, 32:

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

NOES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, 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, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pairs: Mickelberg, McMahon; Perrett, O'Shea.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Dick) negatived.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, 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, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 32:

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

Pairs: Mickelberg, McMahon; Perrett, O'Shea.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

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

Mr SPEAKER: The bells will ring for one minute.

AYES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, 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, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 32:

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

Pairs: Mickelberg, McMahon; Perrett, O'Shea.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House calls on the Leader of the Opposition to approve by 5 pm on Thursday, 19 November 2026 the release of all cabinet, CBRC and any other documents from the previous term of government, including all briefing notes, attachments, and any other related material concerning the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan, including the Capacity Expansion Program and workforce plans.

Sitting suspended from 6.45 pm to 7.45 pm.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3818, on motion of Ms Leahy—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr HUTTON (Keppel—LNP) (7.45 pm): Each year in May the men, boys, staff and community of St Brendan's College don purple shirts with the now common refrain 'not now, not ever'. Last year 1,000 members of my community walked from St Brendan's College to the Yeppoon main beach. They offered a very clear message that, as future fathers, uncles and members of our community, they stand alongside vulnerable individuals walking for justice, compassion and shared respect. All in this House would agree that home should be a place of security, comfort and belonging. It should be a place where children can grow up without fear, where families can build their futures and where every person is treated with respect and dignity, yet we all know that for far too many Queenslanders home is not a place of safety; it is a place of fear, intimidation, coercion and violence.

I have often described domestic and family violence as a scourge on our communities and I use those words deliberately. It is a scourge that destroys families. It devastates lives and leaves scars that can endure for generations. It is something that should have no place in our homes, our communities or our society. When someone finds the courage to reach out for help, when they make that call to police, when they walk into a support service or when they finally tell someone what is happening behind

closed doors, it is our responsibility to ensure the system responds not tomorrow, not after another incident, not after another complicated administrative process is complete, but when the protection is needed. That is why I back these laws.

As chair of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee, I have had the privilege of overseeing the committee's consideration of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. I must sincerely thank my fellow committee members for their engagement with this important legislation and our outstanding committee secretariat for their professionalism, diligence and considerable work through the inquiry, often heard harrowing stories from individuals. They managed that process to have respect for both the victim-survivors and their families while ensuring as a committee we had the evidence we needed to inform our decisions. I want to particularly thank the many individuals and organisations who engaged with our committee. Through our public hearings in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and Logan we heard from police, legal professionals, frontline domestic and family violence services, advocates and community organisations. Their contributions were thoughtful, informed and at times deeply confronting.

I want to take a special moment to thank the Queensland Police Service and the officers who work each and every day on the front line of domestic and family violence. Not only do I back these officers, but I trust them to make judgements that make our communities safer. These are the men and women who attend homes in the middle of the night, who will walk into unpredictable and sometimes dangerous circumstances, who comfort frightened children and who must make difficult decisions to protect vulnerable Queenslanders. Their work deserves our respect and our support, and their experience deserves to be heard when we consider how to improve the laws of this state. This bill seeks to ensure our collective response to domestic and family violence remains focused on what matters: the safety, protection and wellbeing of victim survivors and their children. I say to members that we will come back again and again—as many times as it takes—to put in place laws that support and protect our victims and our families because our communities demand nothing less than that of us.

Domestic and family violence is not simply a private matter that occurs behind closed doors. It is a community issue, a justice issue and a responsibility that demands leadership from every level of government. What struck me during our committee's consideration of the bill was the evidence from Deputy Commissioner Scanlon of the Queensland police. She reflected on her own experience participating in community round tables in places like Townsville and Mount Isa in 2015. She reminded the committee that even back then police were asking for greater immediacy in their response to protect victims who were at risk. More than a decade later, those operational concerns remain relevant to the reason and the drive that is pushing us in terms of the reforms before this House.

One of the most significant reforms in this bill is making police protection directions the primary police response to domestic and family violence. These directions allow police to provide immediate protection without requiring every matter to proceed through the same court application process. This bill expands the circumstances in which they can be issued, increasing their duration from 12 months to three years, and broadens the conditions that police can impose to protect victims. The Queensland Police Union supported these reforms, recognising the importance of streamlining police protection directions, removing unnecessary operational exclusions and establishing longer lasting protections for victims. For police officers working in regional Queensland, where distances can be significant and access to specialist services may be limited, having the ability to provide immediate protection is particularly important.

This bill also introduces a new offence for repeated contraventions of police protection directions and domestic violence orders, recognising that repeated breaches can form part of an escalating pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. It also increases the maximum penalty for contravening a police protection direction to three years imprisonment or five years in circumstances of aggravation. This is an important principle. A person who repeatedly disregards a protection measure is demonstrating behaviour that demands an appropriate response from our justice system. Our victims must come first. During our hearing in Rockhampton Beverley from the Rockhampton Women's Shelter reflected on the significance and the importance of these reforms. She told committee—

> These changes that are being made in this amendment bill take a huge step towards keeping people using violence accountable.

Our committee also considered the importance of ensuring that the court process itself does not become another instrument of abuse. For a victim-survivor who has experienced coercion, intimidation or violence, appearing in court can be an enormously difficult experience. The justice system should never provide an opportunity for a person using violence to continue that intimidation through direct cross-examination or inappropriate access to sensitive personal information. This bill strengthens

protections in both these areas. It clarifies restrictions on direct cross-examination and strengthens the safeguards governing access to sensitive material during civil domestic and family violence proceedings. We are putting victims first. These are practical changes but their importance should not be underestimated. Seeking justice should not mean that a victim needs to be subjected to further trauma.

The bill also expands the electronic monitoring pilot statewide, with courts required to consider monitoring device conditions in specified circumstances. This is another tool that we are making available to the justice system supported by better information sharing with police. The Crisafulli government has outlined significant reforms in this space, including additional funding for frontline services, embedded workers in police stations, expanded co-responder arrangements and new support hubs. These commitments translate into practical outcomes for victims who need our assistance and who need our support, including for those, like in my own community, outside major metropolitan centres.

Domestic and family violence is not an issue that can be solved by government alone nor legislation alone, but the legislation that we choose to implement here matters. It determines how quickly our police can respond, it determines what protections are available and it determines how breaches are treated and whether our courts can provide a safe environment for those seeking help. Domestic and family violence remains a scourge in our communities. We owe it to every victim-survivor, every child who has witnessed violence and every family whose life has been torn apart to keep working each and every day towards a Queensland where everyone can feel safe in their own home. Our responsibility is to keep victims at the centre of the decisions we make, and that is why I commend this bill to the House.

Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (7.54 pm): Tonight I rise to address serious concerns about domestic and family violence and the additional responsibilities that are being placed on our frontline police officers and the importance of independent oversight and accountability. These issues cannot be considered in isolation. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, a staggering $140 million in domestic and family violence funding has either been removed, cut or relocated. This includes almost $40 million cut from this year's budget, $10 million confirmed as relocated during estimates and almost $90 million removed from the prevention of domestic and family violence budget through machinery-of-government changes.

At a time when too many women and children are losing their lives in our communities to domestic and family violence, Queenslanders deserve more support, not less. Our hardworking frontline police officers deserve the resources, the training and the legislative safeguards necessary to protect vulnerable Queenslanders. The Queensland Labor opposition recognises the enormous pressure placed on our police officers responding to domestic and family violence, and I hear it firsthand from my brother who is a police officer in Gladstone. We support measures that reduce this pressure, but they must be implemented properly and with appropriate safeguards and not at the potential expense of misidentified victims.

This brings me to the government's police protection direction framework. Submission after submission to the committee have demonstrated that significant concerns remain about how these powers will operate in real practice. Many of these concerns were raised when police protection directions were first introduced, yet here we are less than a year after their commencement making further amendments without a formal independent review of that existing framework that was put in place. In fact, the government recently confirmed that the ANROWS study into victim misidentification announced more than 13 months ago remains only in its commencement stage. We are asking for frontline police officers to exercise significant discretionary powers in some of the most complex and some of the most dangerous situations that they encounter.

Mr J Kelly: They do it every day.

Mr BUTCHER: They do do it every day; I take that interjection. As the General President of the Queensland Police Union, Shane Prior, described it—it has already been stated here tonight and I will say it again—

> ... frontline constables are being asked to discharge quasi-judicial functions on a dark suburban driveway amidst conflicting accounts and extreme ... pressures.

That statement certainly highlights to me the extraordinary responsibility that is being placed on each and every one of our police officers. Police officers are expected to make decisions that can have profound consequences for victims, families and alleged perpetrators, often with limited information and under immense pressure and sometimes in dangerous situations as well. We must ensure that officers

are properly supported and that appropriate safeguards are maintained. Of particular concern is the removal of safeguards where a police officer is involved in a domestic and family violence matter either as the aggrieved or as the respondent. The Crime and Corruption Commission warned that there are inherent corruption risks associated with these discretionary powers. These concerns were also supported by the Victims' Commissioner.

During the November Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee meeting the CCC chair described the proposed changes as raising issues 'of significant concern'. The commission also questioned the rationale for removing existing protections in matters involving police officers. When Queensland's corruption watchdog raises concerns of significance, the government has a responsibility to address them. With expanded police powers must come stronger independent oversight. That is why the Queensland Labor opposition continues to call for the establishment of an independent police integrity unit. It was disappointing that that was not supported tonight. This is not about questioning the integrity of the thousands of dedicated police officers who serve our Queensland communities every single day; it is about protecting those officers, removing real and perceived conflicts of interest and maintaining public confidence in police.

An independent unit would provide greater transparency in handling those complaints and better protect officers against unfounded allegations of misconduct. Yet, during the November Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee meeting, the CCC confirmed there had been no further meetings regarding the establishment of the unit since April this year. We also learnt through estimates that the CCC received no funding in this year's budget to help establish that unit.

This lack of progress is particularly concerning given the evidence presented about police complaints. In 2024-25 the CCC received 2,923 police complaints. During that same period the Queensland Police Service recorded 7,376 complaints. That represents a gap of almost 4,500 complaints. The CCC chair acknowledged that these were matters the commission did not necessarily have visibility of. Queensland's corruption watchdog should have appropriate visibility of police complaints, particularly as the government moves to expand police powers. An independent police integrity unit would also help to address this oversight gap. It would strengthen accountability, protect the reputation of hardworking officers and give Queenslanders greater confidence in the system.

I also want to address the concerning picture emerging from domestic and family violence statistics. The police minister has publicly claimed that domestic violence rates are falling. However—

Mr PURDIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the misleading comments made by the member and ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, the police minister has taken offence, would you withdraw?

Mr BUTCHER: I withdraw. At the same time, frontline services continue to report increasing demand and Queensland police data shows domestic and family violence calls for service falling by approximately 10 per cent, from 183,855 to 165,386. Police issued protection notices have fallen from 19,303 to 15,258. Domestic violence related assault victims recorded by police have fallen from 36,989 to 30,627 and the QPS annual report shows domestic and family violence referrals dropping by approximately 23 per cent.

These figures raise serious questions that deserve proper examination. Are fewer Queenslanders experiencing domestic and family violence, or are changes to police reporting and recording practices influencing these statistics? We must be careful not to confuse a reduction in recorded incidents with a reduction in the number of women and children who are actually experiencing domestic and family violence. When frontline organisations report increasing demand while police statistics indicate significant decreases, those differences certainly warrant independent scrutiny. Our police officers rely on accurate information to identify emerging threats. They allocate the resources and protect their communities.

The parliament relies on accurate information to assess whether legislation and the current government's policies are working. Queenslanders deserve confidence that the statistics presented to them accurately reflect community safety. That is why the Queensland Labor opposition continues to call for an independent community safety statistics bureau. Independent verification would strengthen transparency, improve public confidence and ensure police resources are directed where they are needed most.

Domestic and family violence is far too serious to be reduced to statistics or political arguments. Our frontline officers deserve legislation that is properly viewed, powers that are appropriately

safeguarded for them and independent oversight that protects both officers and communities. Victims deserve a system that recognises the complexities of domestic and family violence and does not place them at further risk. All Queenslanders deserve accurate crime statistics, transparency and accountability. We must protect the integrity of our police while at the same time maintaining public confidence in the justice system, ensuring vulnerable Queenslanders are never ever left behind. Queenslanders deserve more protection, stronger accountability and better oversight—not less.

Miss DOOLAN (Pumicestone—LNP) (8.04 pm): I stand today in strong support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. I want to begin with saying something simple: every Queenslander deserves to feel safe in their own home. For too many Queenslanders, however, home is not a safety; it is a place of fear, intimidation, coercion and violence. For too many women and children, the people who should offer them the greatest protection are the very people causing them harm. When a victim-survivor finds the courage to reach out for help our justice system must be ready to respond—not tomorrow, not after weeks of paperwork or lengthy admin processes but when that protection is actually needed the most. That is what this bill is really about. It is about putting victims first, giving our police the tools they need and ensuring perpetrators face real consequences for their actions.

As a member of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee I had the opportunity to participate in the examination of this important legislation. Throughout the process, one message became abundantly clear: our frontline police, our domestic and family violence services and those advocating for victim-survivors have been calling for stronger protection for years. In fact, during our committee's public briefing Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon reflected on her experience working with communities in North Queensland as far back as 2015. She explained that even then police were asking for a process that would allow them to respond more immediately to victims at risk. That was more than a decade ago. For a decade those on the frontline knew that more needed to be done, yet under the former Labor government domestic and family violence offences increased by 218 per cent. That is not a record any government should be proud of and it demonstrates why we cannot afford to continue with business as usual. The Crisafulli LNP government is taking a different approach. We are delivering practical, meaningful reforms that strengthen protections, reduce unnecessary delays and hold perpetrators accountable.

One of the most significant reforms in this bill is making police protection directions the primary police response to domestic and family violence. Currently, police can spend considerable time navigating admin processes when responding to DV incidents. That is time that could otherwise be spent protecting another victim, responding to another emergency or preventing further harm. This bill will streamline those processes and allow police to issue immediate police protection directions on the spot. It will also extend the duration of those directions from 12 months to three years and expand the conditions that police can impose. Importantly, the bill provides a clear pathway to the courts where judicial oversight is required, including matters involving child law or family protection orders.

During our committee hearings, Queensland Police Union President Shane Prior highlighted that these reforms would reduce admin and red tape while delivering immediate and enduring safety to victim-survivors. That is exactly what our police need, because every minute spent navigating unnecessary bureaucracy is a minute that could be spent protecting someone in danger.

The second major reform is strengthening consequences for perpetrators who repeatedly breach protection orders. We know that domestic and family violence is not always an isolated incident. It can involve a pattern of coercion, intimidation, manipulation and escalating violence. When someone repeatedly breaches a protection order that behaviour must be taken seriously. This bill creates a new offence for repeated contraventions of domestic violence orders and police protection directions. It also increases the maximum penalty for breaching a police protection direction to three years imprisonment or five years in circumstances of aggravation.

During our committee process, Women's Legal Service Queensland made the important observation that repeated breaches can form part of an escalating coercive and controlling behaviour. A protection order must mean something. It cannot simply be a piece of paper that perpetrators believe they can ignore without any consequence. When the law says a victim must be protected, that protection must carry real weight. The third important reform addresses the treatment of victim-survivors within our court system. For someone who has already experienced domestic and family violence, participating in legal proceedings can be an incredibly confronting experience. The last thing we should allow is for those proceedings to become another avenue for intimidation or control.

This bill strengthens restrictions on direct cross-examination and safeguards access to sensitive materials during domestic and family violence proceedings. Seeking justice should not mean being subjected to further trauma. Our courts must be places where victims can seek protection, not places where perpetrators can continue their abuse.

The bill also expands the electronic monitoring pilot statewide and requires courts to consider electronic monitoring conditions in particular circumstances. This is another important tool to strengthen accountability and improve community safety. Legislative reform is only one part of the work being undertaken by the Crisafulli government. We are also investing in the frontline services that victim-survivors rely upon. Our government has increased domestic and family violence funding by 45 per cent compared with the former Labor government's final budget. We have committed $40 million to embed specialist workers in police stations across Queensland and expand the co-responder pilot. We are opening three new Beyond DV hope hubs and delivering a new North Queensland crisis hotline. Importantly, we have improved the DVConnect call-answer rate from just 41.9 per cent under Labor to 84 per cent. Behind every unanswered call is potentially someone reaching out at one of the most frightening moments of their life—someone who has finally found the courage to ask for help, someone who may have only a brief window of opportunity to make that call. That is why these improvements matter. That is why our government is determined to ensure that support is available when Queenslanders need it.

I want to acknowledge the many organisations and frontline workers across Queensland who dedicate themselves to protecting Queenslanders. Our police officers, crisis support workers, women's shelters, legal advocates and community organisations perform extraordinary work, often in incredibly difficult circumstances. In my own electorate of Pumicestone I know how important it is that people experiencing domestic and family violence can access support, protection and a pathway to safety. These reforms are not simply about legislation debated within this chamber. They are about the mother who wants to know her children will be safe tonight, they are about the young woman who is frightened to leave an abusive relationship and they are about the victim-survivor who needs confidence that, when they report a breach, the justice system will take it seriously.

During our committee hearings, Beverley Schimke from the Rockhampton Women's Shelter described these amendments as a huge step towards keeping people who use violence accountable. That is a powerful endorsement from someone working in the sector. It reinforces why this legislation is so important. While the opposition continues to raise objections to these reforms, the Crisafulli government is focused on delivering the stronger protections that police and victim-survivors have been calling for.

Queenslanders do not want excuses; they want action. They want a justice system that responds quickly, protects those at risk and ensures that perpetrators are held accountable. Domestic and family violence is not a private matter. It is not something we can ignore, minimise or accept as inevitable. It is a serious community safety issue that demands a serious response from our government. We know that legislation alone will not eliminate domestic and family violence. We also know that stronger laws, better frontline services and more effective police responses can make a meaningful difference. The Crisafulli government is determined to deliver that difference because every Queenslander deserves to live free from violence, every victim-survivor deserves to be heard and every person who reaches out for protection deserves a system that is ready to respond. This bill puts victims first, backs our police and strengthens consequences for perpetrators. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (8.12 pm): The Labor opposition, and I am sure all members of this House, stand in solidarity with victims of domestic and family violence. At the outset I thank all of the amazing people who work across a variety of sectors in this field. They do an amazing job. As a member of the committee I was privileged, alongside the other members of the committee and some of the substitutes, to travel across Queensland and meet with some of the police and frontline domestic and family violence workers who do this fantastic work. I want to thank them both for the work that they do and the evidence that they gave.

The Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced in September 2026. The bill follows on from legislation introduced in 2025 which established the framework for PPDs. This bill introduces a raft of changes. It will repeal the police protection notice framework, PPNs, and these would be replaced with PPDs.

This bill also establishes new offences for repeated contravention of a PPD or domestic violence order. The Queensland Police Service commenced operation of the PPDs on 1 January 2026. As I said, the Labor opposition stands in solidarity with victims of domestic and family violence and any

measures that genuinely make them safer. I am sure that every single one of us in this place has met with domestic and family violence survivors in our roles as members of parliament, and many of us will know them in our personal lives as well. We will know that they can present as frightened, distressed, traumatised and heightened. They can present as agitated. The same is true when the police arrive at their front door. The perpetrator can present as calm, composed and even charming. That is why it can be so challenging for the police to correctly identify the real perpetrator. We support the Queensland Police Service to have the best possible tools to deal with the scourge of domestic violence in our community, which is why it is so important that we get this legislation right.

This government has said that it would listen to the experts. In my experience, experts are usually guided by data, in this case garnered from the lived experience of victim-survivors. In the hearings and through their submissions we heard from numerous witnesses, including the CCC, the Queensland Law Society, Micah Projects and Anglicare Southern Queensland. Collectively they raised a number of concerns and I think that it is incredibly important we consider them in this debate.

The Queensland Law Society wanted to see a more fulsome review in order to give enough data points to evaluate the success of the PPD program. PPDs currently run for 12 months. Under the new legislation they will run for three years. This data, gathered over the course of the review period, would have allowed a proper review for the success of the program. Anglicare Southern Queensland also highlight in their submission the potential for misidentification of domestic violence victims. They highlight the importance of having accurate data in this context because when we are talking about the legislation going from a 12-month period to a three-year period misidentification has more serious consequences. They also highlight the importance of evaluating the current success of the program to ensure that misidentification is not occurring. Their submission states—

> The Bill proposes expanding the Police Protection Direction (PPD) framework before the existing framework has been independently evaluated. Anglicare considers that the first priority should be to understand how PPDs are currently operating in practice, including whether existing safeguards are working effectively, before further expanding police powers.

The Anglicare submission goes on—

> The Explanatory Notes state that the proposed changes have been informed by 'early frontline feedback'. While frontline feedback is important, it is not clear whose frontline experience is being captured or whether the experiences of victim-survivors, children and specialist domestic and family violence services have been given equivalent consideration.

On the issue of misidentification, their submission says—

> Anglicare's DFV counselling staff previously identified the risk of misidentification, both the misidentification of the person predominantly using violence or misidentification of the person most in need of protection, as a key concern with PPDs. An independent evaluation should examine whether this risk is occurring in practice, including the circumstances in which PPDs are issued, whether the person using violence is correctly identified, and what safeguards are available where a PPD has been incorrectly issued.

Micah Projects wanted to see analysis of the initial nine months where the PPDs have been operating after which further changes could be considered. The CCC in its submission continued to call for the introduction of a police integrity unit before progressing the bill to ensure that there are appropriate safeguards in place. I want to read from their submission, which I think is especially important because they did not have the opportunity to give evidence before the committee. On page 2 of their submission, the CCC highlighted community concern about police responses to domestic and family violence. The submission states—

> The Independent Commission of Inquiry into the Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence (COIDFV) highlighted several instances in which the policing response to DFV fell short of community expectations and identified instances where police officers themselves were perpetrators. To address these concerns, the COIDFV recommended the Queensland Government establish a Police Integrity Unit (PIU) of the CCC to deal with all complaints in relation to police. The CCC notes the community concern about police responses to DFV may be amplified when the establishment of a PIU to deal with complaints against police officers has been recommended but not yet implemented.
>
> Results from the CCC's 2025 Corruption Perceptions Survey suggest there continues to be a high-level of concern among the community about police responses to, and police perpetrated, DFV.

This is a really great submission that speaks to the heart of why a police integrity unit is a really important factor in making this a much stronger and better piece of legislation.

It is worth noting that all of the experts come from very different sectors and backgrounds, but they all call for additional data points and some other changes to be made prior to the expansion of PPDs in Queensland. With the PPD timeframe being expanded from 12 months to three years under the provisions of the bill, the stakes are higher than ever. It is more important than ever that we get the settings right for the sake of domestic and family violence victims and survivors in this state.

In the time that I have left, I thank my fellow committee members and especially every single person who came before the committee or provided a submission either in public or in private. We heard in private some very powerful stories from survivors that were incredibly helpful in forming our thoughts. It is incredibly difficult to lay yourself bare in a committee process, as some have done. I thank them for giving of themselves in that way. I will not call them 'brave'; there are no words to describe what it would take to have an experience like that and then come before a committee and put words to it so that we can use that evidence to make better legislation for the state of Queensland.

I am confident that all stakeholders, all members of the committee and all members of this parliament are united in our desire to ensure no-one loses their life to domestic violence. We have received significant submissions and have heard significant evidence from expert witnesses who raised concerns and made great suggestions about how this bill can and should be improved. I think it is important that we listen to those views.



Ms DOOLEY (Redcliffe—LNP) (8.22 pm): Tonight, I rise to speak in strong support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. At the heart of this legislation is an urgent principle: when someone reaches out for help because they are experiencing domestic and family violence, our systems must respond quickly, safely and effectively. We must put victim-survivors first and make it harder for perpetrators to continue their abuse. We must ensure the justice system does not become another place where victims are intimidated or harmed.

Domestic and family violence requires a whole-of-community response. Sadly, too often right across Queensland we see it reach into our homes, our schools, our workplaces and our neighbourhoods, including in my own community of Redcliffe. Behind every sad statistic is a person whose sense of safety has been taken away, a child frightened in their own home or a parent trying to keep their family safe. As a mum of four and now a grandmother of two, I often think about children living in situations of domestic and family violence. Even when violence is not directed at them, they see it, they hear it, they feel the fear, they know the uncertainty and they carry those experiences into adulthood. Protecting a victim-survivor is also about protecting their children.

In Redcliffe, a victim may be trying to leave a relationship while keeping their children at school, maintaining a job, finding somewhere to live and managing financial pressures. They may fear retaliation or worry whether they will even be believed. Some have experienced years of coercive control before any physical assault is reported and others are isolated from family and friends. We should never underestimate how difficult it can be to come forward. That is why the response at the first point of contact matters so much. A victim-survivor should not have to navigate unnecessary delays or layers of administration before meaningful protection is put in place.

This bill is about strengthening the tools available to our frontline police and makes the police protection directions or PPDs the primary police response to DFV. It streamlines the framework by removing the separate police protection notice pathway and removing circumstances in which a PPD cannot be issued. It also extends the duration of a PPD from 12 months to three years and broadens the conditions that police can impose, bringing them more closely into line with the conditions available to a court through a domestic violence order.

I have never spoken about it in this House but I am a victim-survivor. I was punched in the face by my then husband. I did not go to the police—I should have—for fear of retaliation. When the police did hear about it, and I had a suspected broken jaw, they did not believe me. When police attend homes in Redcliffe, Clontarf, Scarborough or elsewhere in our community, they need to act on the circumstances in front of them. A clear direction can provide immediate protection, reduce administration and help officers get to the next person who needs help.

This bill provides a clear pathway to court where judicial oversight is required, including circumstances involving family law or child protection orders. Police will also retain the ability to seek a protection order where that is the appropriate response. The objective is a more responsive system, not a one-size-fits-all approach. The committee heard compelling evidence about why this reform is needed.

Queensland Police Service Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon told the committee that police have been asking for this as a process because it is delivered more immediately for victims at risk. They have been asking for it since as far back as 2015. She also said that it has shown that PPDs provide an effective mechanism for immediate protection while reducing administrative processes that consume frontline police resources. The Queensland Police Union President, Shane Prior, also supported streamlining directions, removing unnecessary exclusion, establishing three-year orders to reduce red tape and delivering enduring safety.

This bill also recognises that repeated breaches of protection measures are not minor technical matters. Each breach can deepen a victim's fear and signal to the perpetrator that boundaries can be ignored. Breach Bail, Go to Jail comes into effect from 1 December 2026.

This legislation creates a new offence for repeated contraventions of a PPD or DVO. It also increases the maximum penalty for contravening a PPD of up to three years imprisonment or up to five years in circumstances of aggravation, aligning the seriousness of the response with the seriousness of the conduct. The Women's Legal Service Queensland told the committee that repeated breaches can form part of an escalating pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour and should receive an effective justice response. I agree, as does every member on this side of the House.

A protection order is only meaningful if breaches are taken seriously and perpetrators understand that there are consequences for choosing to disregard it. For a Redcliffe victim, every breach can mean another sleepless night, another call for help and another reminder that the perpetrator is still trying to exert control. Stronger consequences make protection measures more credible, and this bill also makes important changes to improve the safety and accessibility of court processes. Victim-survivors should not be forced to endure further intimidation through the legal system.

The justice process must not become another avenue for intimidation or retraumatisation. The committee heard support for these safeguards, and submitters recognise the importance of ensuring that court processes are not used as a weapon to obtain information or continue the trauma of victim-survivors, and that is precisely the purpose of a victim centred justice system—to protect dignity and safety while ensuring fair processes.

Another significant reform is the expansion of the electronic monitoring pilot statewide. This bill requires that courts consider imposing a monitoring device in particular circumstances and gives police a specific power to request monitoring device information for law enforcement purposes. Since the LNP government has introduced these changes, the DVConnect call-answer rate has gone up from 41.9 per cent under those on the left to 84 per cent. We have invested $40 million to embed workers in police stations and for the expansion of the co-responder pilot, and we have opened three new Beyond DV hope hubs.

In the closing minutes, I want to give a shout-out to organisations in my electorate and across the City of Moreton Bay who provide domestic counselling, children's counselling and court-based support for victim-survivors. To Holly and her team from Centre Against Domestic Abuse, CADA: you are extraordinary. It was great to join you last week at your forum. To Encircle Redcliffe Neighbourhood Centre: thank you for hosting the Moreton Bay Says No to Violence Walk—and I have been a member of that committee for over 10 years. I acknowledge the wonderful work of Lou Feltham-Smith from Miracle Mums Movement who received an election commitment of funding to deliver peer-led wellbeing workshops to help women move from victims to thriving survivors. These specialist services are a part of the local safety net, working alongside our police, health services, schools, community organisations and government agencies.

I commend the Attorney-General and Minister Gerber for this week delivering Queensland's first 24/7 Victims Advocate Service, a dedicated call line and online hub. For the people of Redcliffe, these amendments are about receiving protection sooner. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr RICHMOND (Stafford—ALP) (8.32 pm): I rise to speak on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Through you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to acknowledge the contribution of the member for Redcliffe. Throughout the committee process, we spoke with many victim-survivors and, every time we did, it was incredibly impactful and important. To hear that contribution in the chamber reaffirms, I think, the importance of hearing from survivors because, in doing so, it helps us understand the scale of domestic and family violence, the scourge that it is to our community, and it allows us to recommit ourselves to doing all that we can to crush it and stamp it out.

I want to put on record my admiration, respect and awe for those who work on the front line of domestic and family violence responses, whether it is supporting survivors, preventing offending, holding offenders to account or trying to change the behaviour that puts people at risk. That includes the specialist service providers and police officers who do a difficult job each and every day that could not be more essential.

Any bill that seeks to enhance the protections afforded to survivors of domestic and family violence has a noble purpose. While that might be the stated purpose of this bill, the Queensland Labor opposition is not satisfied that the purpose has been achieved. There are four fundamental problems with this bill. First, the government is seeking to entrench a scheme that has been operating, as I

understand it, for less than a year without first independently reviewing whether the existing arrangements are working. The committee heard from a range of stakeholders who supported the objective of improving police responses to domestic and family violence but expressed concern about the changing framework before it had been properly evaluated. The call for a thorough review of the police protection direction framework before it was entrenched is supported by the Queensland Law Society, the Salvation Army, the Queensland Sexual Assault Network and the Women's Legal Service Queensland, to name a few.

When this parliament established the police protection direction framework, it legislated for a review after two years. The then minister said publicly that she expected the review would be fulsome and independent. The parliament is now being asked to expand this scheme before that review has taken place. Moreover, the government has not adequately explained which aspects of the current framework are deficient and why the changes proposed in this bill are so urgently required.

The second issue with this bill is that it removes important safeguards and reduces the circumstances in which matters automatically come before a court while extending the duration of police protection directions to three years. That raises serious concerns about misidentification and whether protection arrangements properly reflect a survivor's circumstances.

No-one in this House disputes the need to ensure that police can act swiftly to protect victims of domestic and family violence. That ability is already provided by police protection notices. These allow police to seek immediate protection for victims with oversight subsequently provided by a magistrate. That pathway is abandoned under this bill which abolishes police protection notices and entrenches police protection directions. Under this bill, a police protection direction will not necessarily be examined by a court.

The risks associated with reducing automatic judicial oversight are significant. The Queensland Law Society noted that the framework proposed in this bill exacerbates the risks associated with misidentification. The society illustrated this risk through the scenario of Alice, drawing on examples from real life. It demonstrated how a woman who had experienced a decade of coercive control, sexual violence and physical abuse, in the circumstances of a particular incident, could be identified as the respondent rather than the victim. The consequences described were profound, including criminalisation, loss of employment and alienation from her children. Where a court examines the facts, there is a greater opportunity to correct misidentification and prevent the tragic circumstances described in Alice's scenario. While the government might argue the court review remains available, that overlooks the barriers survivors face in obtaining legal representation and initiating proceedings themselves.

The Queensland Sexual Assault Network raised related concerns. They observed that mandatory court proceedings arising from police protection notices help connect victim-survivors with the support they need to move on from a violent and abusive relationship. Those proceedings also provide an opportunity for the full nature of offending and abuse that has been suffered to be considered.

The third issue is that this bill removes safeguards in matters involving serving police officers. These changes allow police to issue directions in matters involving other police officers, despite the concerns raised by the Crime and Corruption Commission and the failure to establish the recommended independent police integrity unit. The opposition has serious concerns with this approach and so does the Crime and Corruption Commission. The CCC made it clear in its submission that the existing exclusion should be retained. It raised concerns about the inherent corruption risks associated with allowing police to exercise these powers in matters involving other police officers. The Victims' Commissioner has also emphasised the importance of independent oversight, noting that the independence of the process can determine whether victims feel safe enough to raise their concerns.

One way to address these concerns is to establish a police integrity unit. I understand the Queensland Police Union has indicated its support for such a unit. The government should support the establishment of such a unit. It has been in office for more than two years, and it is past time that it delivered this important reform.

The fourth and final issue is that this bill seeks to respond to the overwhelming demand for domestic and family violence intervention through administrative efficiency, while the government itself is reducing funding for domestic and family violence prevention. We all recognise the pressure on frontline services. We recognise the demand on police. We recognise that survivors need timely access to support, legal assistance, accommodation and protection.

The answer to those challenges cannot simply be to make it easier for the system to process more directions. We need to address the underlying capacity of the system to respond to domestic and

family violence. That means investing in prevention, intervention, specialist services and the support structures that enable people to escape abusive relationships and rebuild their lives.

It is difficult to reconcile the government's rhetoric about prioritising domestic and family violence services when almost $40 million less has been budgeted for domestic and family violence prevention than in the previous budget and $10 million earmarked for domestic and family violence services has been reallocated. We cannot expect frontline workers to do more with less. We cannot expect police to compensate for gaps in specialist support. We cannot rely on efficiency measures alone to address a problem that requires sustained investment and a coordinated response across government.

The government needs to demonstrate that it is committed to tackling domestic and family violence beyond the passage of legislation. The LNP should have adopted our amended motion. They should restore the funding that has been taken from the relevant department and they should back their words with action.

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) (8.41 pm): I am delighted to speak to this bill, which is about providing better legislative tools to provide protection to those experiencing domestic and family violence. I also want to address some of the mistruths I have heard with regard to funding for domestic and family violence. The very mistruths we have heard can actually undermine the confidence of those who are victims of domestic and family violence. They need to be addressed because they are cruel mistruths.

Under the Crisafulli LNP government, there has in fact been a 45 per cent increase in funding for domestic and family violence services—a 45 per cent increase compared to Labor's last budget. I will outline some of those increases and what they mean. It is important that the legislation is right so the police can act with a tailored and immediate response to look after those who are suffering the fear, violence and physical damage of domestic and family violence. It is also important that those services are equipped with the funding, and we are doing exactly that.

Under Labor, DVConnect's answer rate was only 41.9 per cent. Under the LNP, I understand, it is up to 84 per cent, and of course we want to see that continue to improve. That puts to bed another mistruth of Labor's, who did not fund or attend to the need to ensure those services were delivered. We are, though.

We have also added $40 million to embed workers in police stations. There are three new Beyond DV hope hubs. There is a new North Queensland crisis hotline. The list does go on, but more than $50 million has been added to bolster frontline services to expand access to specialised mental health support. I have outlined that we are embedding DFV workers in police stations. The specialist mental health professionals in 20 women's health and wellbeing services are part of that suite of services, which is recognition that we need specialised support in these difficult areas that cause so much trauma and damage.

This bill is about ensuring police can respond to victims sooner. I listened to the member for Redcliffe share a very personal but powerful story—and I thank her for her courage. I thank all of those who have suffered domestic and family violence who had the courage to come forward and provide their insights to help stop this terrible scourge which impacts our community.

We are ensuring police can respond to victims sooner. We are introducing police protection directions—PPDs—as a primary response, and this provides immediate, on-the-spot protection. We want to equip our police, who are the ones who go to those situations, to be able to provide protection, and this is something that they have been asking for. These tools will provide them with a more immediate means to provide that protection.

There are new offences for repeated contraventions of a DVO and a PPD. The maximum penalties for repeated contraventions of DVOs and PPDs have been increased. We are providing better protections for victim-survivors during DFV proceedings. We want stronger prevention interventions for perpetrators. We do not want them abusing the judicial system with access to sensitive materials. We are also expanding electronic monitoring statewide. We want to provide the best support and ensure the tools are available to monitor dangerous perpetrators not only because of the fear they create but also because of the danger they pose.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: As the Minister for Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services has indicated, that is something that will be monitored by QCS statewide. Let's address Labor's reckless

scare campaign. Funding has gone up and services have been increased. We are giving police the tools to more immediately address these very real dangers. They are all part of this piece of legislation.

We will continue to work hard and listen to those who have, fortunately, survived this terrible scourge in our community. We will listen to their families. We will listen to those who are charged with providing protection on the front line to ensure we do all that we can to break that cycle.

I note some of the comments made during the process of consultation. Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon of the Queensland Police Service said—

> If I go back in history of my own lived experience as a very senior police officer in North Queensland working as a senior investigator and on the round tables with Dame Quentin Bryce in the community—and I am talking back in 2015 here, doing round tables in places like Townsville and Mount Isa—some of the things that police requested, even back then, were to have a process for more immediacy in dealing with a victim who was at risk.

Police have seen what we need. They were speaking about victims and what they wanted to see. We want to ensure more victims have access to swifter protection so we can work towards ending this terrible scourge in our community.

Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (8.47 pm): It is time to act. The member for Ferny Grove is correct, but he is about 10 years too late. It is a shame he was not banging the cabinet table all those years ago when, as we now know, senior police, stakeholders and victims around the state were calling for action. Those opposite stand in this place and demand action yet moved a motion to delay vital protections for victims.

After hearing the contributions of those opposite, we now know why they failed to deliver the DFV reforms that police, victims and service providers called out for. We now know why they are trying to further delay protections for victims: they do not trust police. For 10 years, the former Labor government did not listen to the people of Queensland. As victim numbers soared by 193 per cent, they ignored them. As victims told their stories and begged for better laws, harsher penalties and more police, they ignored them. As victim-survivors of domestic and family violence pleaded for greater support and better protection, they ignored them.

For 10 years under the former Labor government, calls for domestic and family violence services grew by 20 per cent year on year, increasing by 280 per cent from 2012 to 2024, and they still ignored them. When victims were crying out for help and raising concerns with perpetrators using a convoluted court process to continue the abuse, they ignored them. As frontline police, the Police Union and the then commissioner begged for stronger laws to protect victims of domestic and family violence, they ignored them. Actually, Labor did not just ignore them; worse still, those opposite decided to wrap police in so much red tape they could not respond and help the victims who needed the help.

Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government is listening. We are listening to victim-survivors, advocates, support services and first responders. I have travelled the state from top to bottom, from coast to outback and to over 120 police stations. I have sat down with frontline police and DFV specialists, and this is what they said. They want to protect victim-survivors. They want to get to more victims sooner. They are frustrated that a single DFV matter can consume a crew for a whole shift while calls for services mount. They want to protect victims from perpetrators who use the court process to continue their abuse against victims. They want laws that will enable them to tackle the scourge of domestic and family violence.

In response, the Crisafulli government passed landmark legislation that introduced police protection directions as an option for police to provide victim-survivors of DFV with immediate on-the-spot protection and eliminate the lengthy, retraumatising court process. This bill builds on those significant improvements. In the most recent committee hearings the state's highest ranking female police officer, Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon, put on the record that police have been calling for better tools to protect victims since 2015. Labor did not listen but the Crisafulli government is. PPDs were implemented statewide on 1 January 2026, and to 31 October police have issued 1,475 PPDs.

In Labor's statement of reservation they state, 'We have seen a botched rollout of the initial version of the PPD framework fail spectacularly.' They state that 1,475 victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, at possibly the lowest, scariest point of their life, provided with immediate on-the-spot protection from their perpetrator, is a spectacular fail. This is just another example from a long list that shows just how out of touch Labor is with victims. They have no compassion, no understanding. Their distrust and disdain for police failed victims during their decade of decline. If Labor wants to see a spectacular fail, look in the mirror. Look at their 10 years in government. Look at the vulnerable victims and calls for help that went unanswered. Look at the position they left Queensland in.

The Crisafulli government is determined to do better with stronger laws, real resources and a victim centred approach. We are making the amendments that police asked for, that stakeholders have called for and that vulnerable victims deserve. This bill will ensure that police can get to the next victim sooner by making police protection directions the primary DFV response available to them. This is the Crisafulli government putting victims first by delivering more effective and efficient immediate long-term protections for victim-survivors without the trauma of attending court. We are also strengthening penalties to reflect the inherently serious nature of contravening protection measures. This includes a new offence for repeated contraventions of a PPD or DVO and aligning the penalty for contravening a PPD with a DVO.

Domestic, family and sexual violence is a scourge across Australia that all states are working to combat. I take this rare opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon. Tony Burke, for chairing the recent Police Ministers Council and for the work that the federal government is doing in taking the lead to coordinate a national response to this insidious issue. During this meeting we received an update from Australia's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner on the second action plan which is being finalised to guide future priorities, investment and accountability arrangements. The federal government doing their part and the Crisafulli government is doing its part. The only people who are not doing their part is the Labor opposition. Labor had their chance and they failed. Not only did they fail; they failed spectacularly.

I will take a moment to correct some misleading comments from those opposite, including the members for Waterford, Mansfield and Gladstone. I have been clear that our government will never celebrate domestic and family violence rates going down because we know that far too many victims suffer in silence. We know that DFV is under-reported. When I was asked by the media to comment on QPS statistics showing a reduction in calls for service, I acknowledged that. I also immediately spoke about domestic and family violence support sectors and said that their calls for service are going up, that they are getting more calls and that we would continue to do everything we can to work to support victims, including delivering record funding, more police and the tools and laws needed to make victims safer.

The member for Gladstone was demanding answers and an explanation why calls for police are going down but calls for support services are going up. With a 45 per cent increase in funding, DVConnect is now answering calls. I was recently on a panel at a fundraiser with DV support services and we spoke about how domestic and family violence starts long before people call triple 0. Those opposite should understand the framework that police are working under. We are investing more in support services, so if DVConnect is answering calls and fewer people are calling triple 0 I think that is a good sign. I am not celebrating that. The member for Gladstone was demanding answers about that, but maybe that is the way to look at it. The panel I was on spoke at great length about the support this government is giving them, how they are answering more calls and fewer people are calling triple 0. We know that domestic and family violence starts long before that crisis point when someone calls triple 0, so I thank all of those support services for the work they do.

Additionally, those opposite claim that the danger of misidentification is one of the reasons not to implement instant protections for victims, despite evidence from the Victims' Commissioner and CEO of the Women's Legal Service stating that reforms QPS have put in place to address this are working well. When a women is named as a respondent in a PPD it must be scrutinised by the Gender Centred Review as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours. DFV specialists provide oversight to ensure that the person most in need of protection has been correctly identified. Where deficiencies are found, recommendations made to the OIC for rectification or further investigation. As others have pointed out, in all of these cases the court is still the ultimate arbiter.

Finally, as per usual the member for Waterford stood in this place and tried to undermine public confidence in the police. The member for Waterford should know better about the process when a QPS member is alleged to have committed domestic and family violence. These allegations are treated with the utmost seriousness because the QPS understands the gravity of such allegations. There are strict processes in place when this occurs. The allegations are fully investigated and appropriate action taken. The CCC also has oversight where alleged conduct may constitute police misconduct or corruption.

Additionally, any officer who becomes the respondent of a DVO, PPD or release conditions has their weapons taken off them, which means they cannot respond to calls for service. The member for Waterford should already know this because I have had to explain this to her before in this House. Every time the member for Waterford stands up in this place and undermines police she is discouraging victims from coming forward. Every time Labor push a baseless and reckless scare campaign they place vulnerable victims at risk. If even one person believes their scare campaign and does not come

forward because of it, that is an absolute travesty. It is abundantly clear that those opposite do not trust our police, they do not respect our police and they definitely do not support our police. We back our police to support vulnerable victims of domestic and family violence.

Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (8.57 pm): I rise to contribute to this debate. The Queensland Labor opposition will always support reforms that strengthen frontline policing and improve safety for victim-survivors, but those reforms must be evidence based and carefully balanced with the inherent risks that are associated with responding to domestic and family violence. They must be capable of being independently scrutinised and centred on the needs of victim-survivors, and this bill falls short of that standard.

Everybody in this House agrees that domestic and family violence is an unrelenting scourge on our society. Too many women and children have lost their lives at the hands of someone they trusted. Too many Queenslanders and too many families across my own electorate of Ipswich live in daily fear of manipulation, coercion and violence. As elected representatives in our communities, it is not enough for us just to offer condolences after a tragedy. It is something people will never get back. We have to do more and we must get the policy settings right.

While the opposition accepts that relieving growing system pressures on our frontline police is the broad intent of this bill, we hold profound reservations about the Crisafulli LNP government's approach to this. Just as we saw with the 2025 amendments, this government is rushing through structural changes without proper safeguards and without listening to the experts at the coalface. Meanwhile, they are actively stripping away funding and transparency from the very system that is meant to keep victim-survivors safe.

I want to talk about what is actually happening on the ground in Ipswich because the lived reality in our community stands in stark contrast to the narrative that this government is trying to spin. Just last month the Domestic Violence Action Centre, DVAC, marked its 30th anniversary. To mark that milestone, DVAC released its 2025-26 impact report, and the figures paint a very grim picture. There is an escalating need. In the last financial year alone, DVAC supported 9,216 individual clients, alongside a staggering 9,452 children who are victim-survivors in their own right. Even more alarming, 795 of DVAC's clients disclosed experiencing nonlethal strangulation—795. It is one of the single highest clinical indicators of future homicide risk, as we know.

Debate, on motion of Ms Howard, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.00 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Nitrous Oxide; Puberty Suppressants

Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.00 pm): I rise tonight to raise an issue of great concern in my community—that is, the increasing use of nangs in residential areas of our beautiful Mount Ommaney suburbs. I have met with parents who are deeply concerned about how accessible nangs still are in our community, with delivery services operating around the clock to deliver these dangerous drugs to your door. I want to commend the member for Greenslopes for his work on this important issue. He has been a champion in highlighting the impacts of the use of nitrous oxide on our communities. I am dismayed that, in recent months, my community and I have noticed a significant increase in the number of nangs left discarded in our community, in our parks, outside our wonderful local small businesses and on the side of the road. It appears their use is increasing.

I know that parents in my community are worried because they know what nitrous oxide can do. It is something we are all waking up to. It is a colourless, tasteless gas that, when inhaled, can be used as a recreational drug. When it is inhaled, it produces dissociative effects. The symptoms of its ongoing use are horrific. Use can induce symptoms that resemble Parkinson's or motor neurone disease; these are really serious diseases with debilitating symptoms that ultimately take people's lives. The effects of inhaling nitrous oxide are similar to those of hallucinogens, as it can also cause hallucinations and changes in thought, emotions and consciousness. People have died while using nangs.

The LNP government will not allow Queenslanders to access pill-testing services, but when it comes to nangs the approach could not feel more different. The Labor opposition is calling on the

government to put an end to the delivery services which put these drugs into the hands of vulnerable Queenslanders.

In the time I have left, can I say how heartbroken members of my community are that, according to media reports on the ABC, the LNP government have chosen to ignore the expert advice from the National Health and Medical Research Council, an independent statutory agency, which released its interim advice on the use of puberty suppressants in the care of trans and gender diverse people aged under 18, finding that the treatment should remain an option. The ABC headline about the LNP response to this issue was 'Queensland LNP government dismisses expert national puberty blocker advice as “ideological”'. This is devastating to young people and their families in Mount Ommaney and right across Queensland. We need to leave decisions about health care to the clinicians, and I call on the LNP to listen to the experts. Young people's lives depend on it.

Kawana Electorate

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.03 pm): The Crisafulli government is delivering for all of Queensland and we are delivering for Kawana. We have rolled out new air conditioning and new AV equipment in all the schools across the Kawana electorate this year as part of our $1 million election commitment, including air conditioning in halls at Currimundi State School, Buddina State School, Talara Primary College, Pacific Lutheran College and Kawana Waters State College and new AV equipment at Meridan State College. Recently, I opened the $2 million refurbishment of Block B at Currimundi State School to provide prep and year 1 students with four brand-new classrooms.

Work is progressing on our $10 million investment in the redevelopment of the Kawana Waters Surf Life Saving Club, with a contract due to be awarded early in the new year and construction to follow. Congratulations to the Kawana Waters Surf Life Saving Club on just winning Surf Life Saving Australia's Club of the Year in Australia. This project will also include the redevelopment and expansion of the existing Anzac memorial, where I attended Remembrance Day commemorations with my community, to incorporate the military, police and surf lifesavers at the site in Buddina, with a further $43,000 secured for the Kawana Waters RSL sub-branch.

Tenders are about to go out for the new Currimundi United Football Club clubhouse, funded by a $1 million commitment, with construction works set to commence early in the new year. I officially opened the new headquarters in my Kawana electorate for DV Safe Phone, which we have supported with a $1 million investment to provide an additional 10,000 mobile phones for victims of domestic and family violence. Work is kicking off in the new year for the upgrade of the Sunshine Coast Stadium in preparation for Brisbane 2032, increasing the capacity of the stadium to 10,000 permanent seats.

Works are well underway for stages 1 and 2 of the Wave, a once-in-a-generation transformation of public transport on the coast. Last week, consultation began on the draft public environment report, and today SunLinQ was awarded the design and preconstruction contract for stage 2 between Kawana and Birtinya. I put on record my pecuniary interest conflict in the Wave stage 2, which I have done on many occasions. The Wave is a key part of our 2032 Delivery Plan and underpins the largest investment in transport infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast.

There are upgrades to the Mooloolah River Interchange to get locals home sooner and safer, and we are unlocking future stages of the Wave. Works have started on the $400 million Caloundra Congestion Busting Plan. The new Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority was launched earlier this year, providing a one-stop shop for the management of our waterways. There is a $1 million investment in upgrades to the Currimundi Community Hall, with tenders expected early in the new year. There is a new 400-metre coastal walkway for Currimundi locals, providing direct access to the beach and the coastal pathway.

These are exciting times for my electorate of Kawana and the Sunshine Coast. We are starting to see the benefit of the Crisafulli government's record investment and delivery program after a decade of decline under the Labor government. The former state Labor government took the Sunshine Coast for granted and squandered billions of taxpayer dollars propping up their union mates on construction sites, resulting in a massive decline in productivity, driving up costs and an insidious culture of bullying, violence and intimidation. We are putting the people of Kawana first. We are putting the people of the Sunshine Coast first. We are putting the people of Queensland first. I am proud as the member for Kawana to continue to deliver on our election commitments for the great people of Kawana.

QEII Hospital

Mrs NIGHTINGALE (Inala—ALP) (9.06 pm): I wish this government would deliver for the people of Inala. I rise tonight to speak about a hospital that the people of Inala rely on and a health minister who has failed to tell them what is happening to it. QEII Hospital is Labor built. It was Labor which funded the expansion, with 112 new beds, a bigger ICU and more theatres. Now, two years into this government, when we should have this up and running, what do we hear? The minister has opened the new car park. Well, this new car park is welcome. Anyone who has driven around wanting to visit a sick family member knows the importance of having a car park, but patients preparing for appointments next year still cannot find out what parking will cost them. The hospital website says charges will begin in 'early 2027'. There is no exact date, no published price list and no explanation of who will qualify for concessions or how to apply. Families are being told they will get that information later. That sounds familiar with this government.

Minister, early 2027 is just weeks away. People are already receiving appointments for next year. They are organising time off work, arranging child care and finding someone to drive them. They should be able to work out what the visit will cost them, what someone will pay for a short appointment or if it runs hours late, and whether there will be support for pensioners or those attending multiple days. These are straightforward questions that should have straightforward answers. I call on the minister to publish the commencement date, publish the fees, explain the concessions and make them easy to access, include that information with appointment letters and make sure patients can understand it in their own language.

In my community, people are doing it really tough. Many do not have the luxury of being able to afford unplanned expenses like parking. These are not people who can plan their budgets around 'early 2027'. They need to know now. Alternatives to driving are few and far between. In many parts of my electorate, one weekday journey to the QEII Hospital involves three buses and about an hour and a half to reach the hospital including walking. Depending on the connections home, that can mean 3½ hours of travel for one hospital visit, and that is on a weekday. Imagine doing that if you are sick or post-surgery. This lack of access to our closest hospital is just not good enough. Many of my constituents rely on driving. That is particularly true for nurses who cannot catch public transport to get to work in time for an early shift or to get home from a late shift. They should have safe, free parking at work. The minister should give QEII staff that guarantee.

Here is what I ask of the minister today. Tell the people what they will pay, tell them when it starts, publish the concessions, work with the transport minister to ensure there are services that provide access to health care, and build the beds so there is one for them when they get there.

Mudgeeraba Electorate

Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (9.09 pm): The people of Mudgeeraba know where I stand, they know I will stand up for my community and they know I will fight for our fair share. Working with parents and schools, I have made flashing school zone lights a priority. During my time as local member more than 20 sets have been installed across the electorate including at Mudgeeraba Creek State School, Merrimac State School and King's Christian College.

On Railway Street I worked with residents to secure a pedestrian crossing near the bus stop and service station to help slow down traffic to the new 50-kilometre-an-hour speed limit. Residents told me how important this was, so I took it to government. The crossing, along with a connecting footpath, was delivered within our first six months. Before then, I had begged the Labor government to act. They failed, even on this simple safety improvement, but we got it done.

In our hinterland I made a commitment in my maiden speech to raise the Austinville causeway, and we have well and truly delivered. People used to get swept off this crossing. There were rescues and too many near misses. When the creek rises and the road closes it can add 45 minutes to a trip. It disrupts school runs, delays people getting home and cuts off a key route for our local families. Drivers are now using the new Mudgeeraba Creek causeway while the final work is being completed. The crossing is now 2.5 metres higher, making closures less likely when the creek rises. This creek went under at two metres. It is now 2½ metres high, so I seriously doubt it will be going under. It is great to see that that is finally being done. In fact, it was the Labor Party who used to push the 'If it's flooded, forget it' Facebook posts on their social media using the Austinville causeway as a reason not to cross a flooded causeway, but we actually fixed it. As I said, for families in Austinville, Nerang and Springbrook this means more reliable access to work, school and home.

Keeping our community safe also means backing the volunteers who step up when we need them most. Last year I was very proud and pleased to hand over the new dual cab Mudgeeraba 52 truck to support our local rural fire brigade crew. Bonogin Valley's new truck, *Dawn*, has a special local connection: it is named after founding brigade member Dawn Farrer and recognises her years of service to the community. The electronic fire risk sign at Monaro Road is another practical improvement. After Labor took down the old signs—in fact, all of the signs—the community waited more than a year for a replacement. The Crisafulli LNP government delivered it. We went even further by replacing all of the old signs.

Every one of these projects started the same way: with people in our community raising issues and asking for help. The conversations I have with locals in our schools and across the hinterland help guide my work. My locals deserve a member who is visible, accessible and willing to have hard conversations. There is always more to do, and I will keep fighting for the wonderful electorate of Mudgeeraba.

(Time expired)

Ipswich West Electorate, Health System

Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.12 pm): Ipswich is growing at an extraordinary rate. As I have previously raised in this House, Ipswich City Council's Western Growth Corridor Draft Structure Plan predicts that the population of the corridor will increase from around 10,000 people today to more than 59,000 within the next 15 years, yet already residents are being forced to endure a health system that is struggling to keep up with demand. Every day local families see the consequences of that failure: ambulances stuck outside hospitals, crowded emergency departments, and pressures on doctors, nurses and paramedics who are doing their very best in an underfunded system suffering from immense strain.

Last month I met with representatives of Queensland Hospital Watch, a patient advocacy organisation founded by Ipswich locals Rosemary Wanless and Brooke Watson following the tragic loss of their mother, who waited too long for treatment at Ipswich Hospital. They channelled their grief into advocacy, helping Queenslanders navigate a broken health system and ensuring patients and families have a voice when things go wrong. What struck me during that meeting was a simple question: why does an organisation like Queensland Hospital Watch need to exist at all? The answer is: too many Queenslanders feel unheard and too many families are struggling to navigate a healthcare system under increasing pressure.

In Ipswich, these concerns are even more pronounced as our community continues to grow at a rapid pace. West Moreton Health forecast the region's population will exceed 630,000 by 2046, creating increasing demand for hospitals, emergency departments and frontline health centres. We are still waiting on the health workforce plan, which this minister promised to deliver in June, despite data that has been piling up for months showing Queensland's health system is under growing pressure. Today in the House we have heard about some shocking cases of six people who have recently died and a minister who will not even speak to their families.

At a time when ambulance ramping rates are amongst the worst in history, when outpatient waiting lists have exploded and when major hospital projects are being delayed by this government, Queenslanders are right to ask whether the health system is keeping up with the needs of our community. Ipswich West residents deserve confidence that, as our population continues to grow, beds, staff, infrastructure and frontline services will grow with it. Without that commitment, the gap between demand and delivery will only continue to widen. I am asking the government to keep its eyes on the west and deliver infrastructure that is so desperately needed.

Peach Tree Perinatal

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) (9.15 pm): I want to talk about a great news story. It is about a wonderful service delivered by Peach Tree in my electorate, but it is part of a wider story we need to talk about: perinatal mental health and the services that we are rolling out across Queensland. There is a special spot for mums and bubs—and dads—at Peach Tree in Maroochydore to keep them well and flourishing. There is a number of other Peach Tree services that this government is funding across Queensland.

This lovely centre provides vital connection during pregnancy and early parenthood. It reduces isolation for parents and caregivers, and creates a safe and welcoming space for early support for the

family, as I said, for the wellbeing of mums and dads. It is a space where people do not have to have a clinical referral. They might just go there to catch up with parents for some good company, but there is triaging and access to higher level services if required. In the first instance, it is a welcoming place. It was an honour earlier this year to cut the ribbon, but I want to talk about why perinatal mental health matters.

Up to 20 per cent of mums experience mental health during the perinatal period, and early intervention is key to preventing further complications and supporting better outcomes for families. These services in Cairns and on the Gold Coast as well as on the Sunshine Coast are in addition to perinatal beds for mums and bubs that are being rolled out in a number of hospitals. I acknowledge the work to bring those new beds to the Sunshine Coast.

Peach Tree is about specialised peer support groups, parenting programs, and therapeutic and social groups. It is about helping expectant parents and new parents navigate and find pathways into other helpful services for treatment and support. I really hope we can talk about this but also practically direct people to these wonderful services. These services in turn can link into higher level support if required. The main thing is to give the message that mums with their bubs or dads with their bubs are not alone. This is practical and tangible support that can make a difference. I support the wonderful work that Peach Tree is doing, as well as their volunteers who help expand that network of services they deliver.

I also want to acknowledge the $6.3 million purpose-built facility—the new health hub, which has been online for the last year in Maroochydore and which is now delivering greater oral health services and BreastScreen Queensland services. It is state-of-the-art. It is wonderful to see how well this is being used and it is right in the heart of Maroochydore.

Illicit Tobacco

Dr O'SHEA (South Brisbane—ALP) (9.18 pm): Tobacco use is still the leading preventable cause of death in Australia, responsible for the deaths of over 24,000 Australians each year. The proliferation of stores selling illegal vapes and cigarettes in our communities is undermining the best efforts of our public health professionals to reduce nicotine use and subsequent addiction. Over the past few years legislation has been introduced in this parliament to strengthen Queensland's tobacco laws, most recently by this government, targeting the sale of these illegal products by increasing seizure powers, penalties and length of closure orders including the promise that closed means closed, yet operators continue to flout the law.

My community of South Brisbane has unfortunately seen several illegal nicotine sellers trying to set up shop, but one in particular has shocked my constituents with its flagrant disregard for the law. Despite repeated closure orders, it continues to trade with impunity throughout closure periods. In fact, there is a current closure order clearly displayed on the door of the store right now yet it is still open for business and trading as I speak. I have now written to the Minister for Health on five separate occasions about this rogue retailer. When I first wrote to the minister 19 months ago I was assured that 'the Crisafulli government is sending a clear warning to every person trading in these harmful products' and that 'the Crisafulli government is taking decisive action against illegal tobacco and vape retailers', yet the store remained open. Six months ago when I informed the minister's office that this store was trading despite a closure order I was advised that 'monitoring and enforcement of this closure order is ongoing' and that 'this store remains a priority venue for the Metro South public health unit', yet the store remained open.

Two months ago the minister's office repeated these assurances and added that the Crisafulli government treats breaches of closure orders as serious offences, yet the store remained open. When I responded that my community is frustrated at this store's flagrant disregard of the closure orders, the minister's office replied that they shared the frustration of myself and the community at traders contravening the law. While it was nice to have my community's frustration acknowledged, I think it is important to point out that the LNP is actually in government and there is an expectation that decisive action will be taken. Enforcing these closure orders is of vital importance in protecting our community, and particularly our young people, from becoming entrenched in nicotine addiction. I know the environmental health officers will be working tirelessly, but they need the appropriate resources. I ask the Minister for Health to act, provide the resources required to enforce closure orders and ensure 'closed' actually does mean closed.

Obi Obi Road; Crouch, Ms C

Mr HUNT (Nicklin—LNP) (9.21 pm): Obi Obi Road links our beautiful hinterland with our popular rural areas around Kenilworth. The road is used by locals and tourists and the down section of the road outside of Mapleton is a state road—a state road that is dirt and gravel, windy, narrow and frequently suffers damage in storms and weather events. Today a truck that should not have been on that road appears to have ignored signage and dropped a trailer off the edge, closing the road for hours. In 2017 I took to the election a commitment to fix the road. Unfortunately we lost that election, but I did not give up in opposition. My advocacy, however, fell on deaf ears of the then Labor government. When Labor won the 2020 election and the seat of Nicklin I was disappointed, but I thought that maybe the Labor member would advocate to the Labor government and get the work done, but, no, nothing—no plan, no funding, not even a conversation about it. A search of *Hansard* revealed that the former Labor member did not say the words 'Obi' or 'Obi Obi' once in four years in this parliament. That is disappointing but not surprising.

Recent weather events mean the road is damaged again. I had calls and emails from members of the community and I had a phone call from the local pharmacist in Kenilworth who missed a delivery because of the road condition. I did make contact with the local TMR team, and I want to thank them for reacting quickly to the community's concerns to regrade and repair the road as a priority. This cannot keep happening in the long term. We need a solution for this road. Our hinterland and agricultural communities deserve a better state road connecting them to the services they need.

I want to thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for his engagement with me on this important community issue as we work together with local TMR engineers to come up with a long-term solution. It is important that we listen to the community on this issue, and I have recently doorknocked in the affected communities and conducted online research and surveys. The overwhelming response of the community is that they want this road finally fixed. Thank you to all of the members of the community who have had their say. The portal is still open and we want to hear from you as I continue to work with the minister on a long-term solution for Obi Obi Road.

I want to quickly also take this opportunity to say congratulations to Carmel Crouch, one of our local heroes who was just awarded Queensland Senior Australian of the Year for her founding of and work with Steps Group Australia. Many of our members on the Sunshine Coast would know Carmel. Carmel has made a significant contribution to our community over many years. On behalf of the community, I say thank you, Carmel, and congratulations.

Dairy Industry

Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (9.24 pm): For more than 14 years I have been fighting for the survival of Queensland's dairy industry. I have witnessed the ongoing destruction of what was a thriving industry due to government inaction. Family dairy farms that operated for generations have disappeared, communities have lost valuable jobs and producers have been forced off the land. Prior to deregulation, Queensland produced approximately 850 million litres of milk annually. Today that figure has collapsed to just 285 million litres. The Atherton Tablelands, once a powerhouse of Queensland's dairy industry, has been devastated by a loss of dairy producers. Both federal and state governments have disgracefully just let this happen without any meaningful action. I have constantly raised the plight of our dairy farmers, fought for fairer farmgate prices, highlighted the devastating consequences of deregulation and pushed government to support this vital industry. Atherton dairy farmers have highlighted recent crippling freight costs, escalating production expenses and stagnant farmgate milk prices threatening the industry. I recently met with the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner, who also expressed deep concern about the dairy industry and the overall critical issues of our state's food security. The commissioner recognised that we desperately need our dairy and agricultural industries to provide food security. However, the government is allowing these very industries that produce our food to collapse.

A proposed practical solution for dairy producers in the Far North is for a five-cents-per-litre farmgate freight credit over five years which I have written to the Premier about. At current production levels, that would cost approximately $2 million annually or a pittance of $10 million over five years to help secure the future of an entire Far North Queensland industry. Considering what the government is spending on the Olympics in Brisbane, it is not a lot to ask for to save an entire regional industry. However, the response to my recent question on notice from the Minister for Primary Industries simply outlined existing programs, research and long-term initiatives—the typical hogwash! What good are studies and programs if there are no dairy farmers left to benefit from them? If the government does not act very soon there will be no fresh milk on our supermarket shelves in North Queensland and we will instead rely on imported, powdered or long-life milk. I call on the state government to work closely

with the Food Farmers' Commissioner and our remaining dairy producers and immediately introduce freight assistance to Far North Queensland dairy producers.

McHardy, Ms P

Mr BAROUNIS (Maryborough—LNP) (9.27 pm): Our communities are built on the dedication of local volunteers, and few people demonstrate this better than Maryborough local hero Pam McHardy. At 77 years of age, Pam is anything but retired. After a lifetime of teaching, she continues to work as a relief teacher, travelling as far as Bundaberg, Tin Can Bay and Gympie to help educate our children. She has even developed programs to better understand how children learn and support those who may be struggling, but teaching is only one of Pam's many contributions to our community.

She is also the backbone of the Mary River Mighty LionHearts Club, mentoring members with disabilities and ensuring everyone feels included, valued and part of the community. The Mary River Mighty LionHearts Club is the only Lions Club in the world run by people with disabilities. The president, Kerry, says that the only reason the club keeps going is through the encouragement Pam gives to everyone. Pam is the driving force behind the club. Pam is constantly fundraising to support local families doing it tough, particularly at Christmas, ensuring they have a little extra to make the festive season special. Pam and her volunteers make 4½ thousand small boxes of lollies every Christmas so that people in hospital and nursing homes have a small gift to open. Of course we cannot forget Pam's famous scones! From cumquat and lavender to chocolate chip and watermelon, Pam loves experimenting with new flavours.

Pam recently got up early to bake fresh scones for the Premier's visit to Maryborough, and she is also known for delivering them to our local emergency services. Pam is a self-less woman who recognises the importance of giving back and celebrating those who serve our community. Pam certainly displays real Christian values. She keeps telling me, 'John, don't forget *The Lord's Prayer* night and day.' She is an inspiration to me personally and a wonderful example of how a lifetime of service does not end at retirement. Thank you, Pam, for everything you continue to do for Maryborough. Our community is a better place because of people like you.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Chiesa, 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, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richmond, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young