



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Child Protection; Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): We on this side of the House are serious about protecting our children. We have heard far too many horror stories about children being hurt and killed by those who are meant to have loved and protected them. Sadly, a case that everyone sitting in this House will remember is the tragic case of little Mason Jet Lee. I was absolutely shocked by the abuse that this poor little boy suffered in his short life.

That is why last week I announced I will introduce Australia's toughest punishments for offenders who kill children. There is no worse crime than killing an innocent child. I was disgusted when I heard that Mason's killer could be free in six years. How could the man who so callously took a life away be allowed out on our streets in such a short time?

I and those on this side of the House say enough is enough. We on this side of the House will bring sentencing of child killers into line with community expectations. We will increase the minimum non-parole period for murder of a child from 20 years to 25 years. We will also introduce a new, separate offence of child manslaughter, ensuring violent offenders who cause the death of a child face a mandatory minimum 15 years jail.

These violent offenders who take the life of an innocent child should not be allowed out on our streets with just a slap on the wrist. I will guarantee no more soft sentences for child killers. We will protect our kids. We will stop our kids coming into harm. We will punish those who harm our defenceless children.

Queenslanders expect their government to work hard. Queenslanders expect governments to have ideas to keep moving the state forward. Queenslanders expect their government to have a plan. Those in the Palaszczuk government have none of that. Instead, Queenslanders have a government that has simply no plan. They have no plan to protect Queensland children which is why I have proposed these tough new child killer laws. Queenslanders have a government that is so lazy they cancelled the December sitting of parliament because they simply do not have the will to come to work.

I ask everyone sitting in this chamber: what has Labor achieved this year? Sadly, not much. We already know that there is a do-nothing Premier leading a do-nothing government, but now we are starting to see the cost of a government that simply does nothing. We know that trains do not run on time, when they run at all. There are 470 fewer services a week with no end in sight to the rail fail.

We have a health system in crisis. Ambulance ramping is back. Emergency department wait times have blown out. Elective surgery wait times are simply unacceptable. The AMA report card shows bullying is rampant in our hospitals, with almost half of junior doctors at the RBWH experiencing bullying or harassment. More than one in three doctors reported being bullied at the PA Hospital. More than 50 per cent of junior doctors at Lady Cilento Children's Hospital were advised not to claim overtime. What does this health minister care about? It is one thing and one thing only—that is, changing the name of Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. It is a disgrace.

The list does not end there. Sadly, the failures continue. Our education standards are going backwards. Queensland kids in the last 12 months have gone backwards in terms of year 3, 5, 7 and 9 standards.

Drug and violent crime is increasing across the state. Crime in Queensland has hit crisis levels and we have seen police cuts throughout the state. There is not a night on the TV news that we do not see a Queenslanders affected by crime. These are innocent Queenslanders who are bearing the brunt of Queensland's crime crisis. What is the police minister's response to all of this? It is, 'Nothing to see here folks.' It is a joke. The police minister spends too much time denying problems in front of him instead of fixing the problem. Queenslanders need real action on crime.

Our debt is ever increasing. Labor's debt is costing Queenslanders \$3.5 billion a year, \$9.5 million a day, \$400,000 an hour and almost \$7,000 a minute just in interest charges. Queensland has the worst unemployment in the nation. It has now held this wooden spoon for the last two consecutive months. September's unemployment rate was 6.1 per cent trend and six per cent seasonally adjusted. I could go on, but sadly there are just too many failures of this Labor government for the time that is allowed.

Queenslanders want better than this and they deserve better than this government. There are serious problems that need to be solved, but the Premier is simply afraid to make the difficult decisions. When there is a problem the Premier simply disappears from sight and from scrutiny. That is not governing and it is not certainly not what Queenslanders want in a Premier. Those opposite, under the Palaszczuk government, have no plan, have no energy and certainly have no ideas.

There is plenty of work to do, but the Premier's priorities are simply all wrong. Queensland families and businesses are paying higher taxes and increased living costs. Much needed infrastructure across Queensland is not being built. Instead of leading the way in job creation and job security, we are falling behind the other states.

Labor's priorities are all wrong. Labor spends millions renaming a hospital when the health system is in crisis. Labor gives domestic violence offenders extra taxpayer funded leave but does not close the loopholes in the blue card system until pressured by the LNP. Labor introduces five new taxes when Queensland has the highest unemployment in the nation and staggering low business confidence. Labor cuts police when crime is out of control. Labor wants to teach our kids about unions while education standards are slipping. Labor slugs us more for our registration and electricity but does not fix our roads and lower our power bills. Labor does favours for union mates, but rail fail continues. Labor is more concerned about criminals' rights than ours. Labor has ordered 250 reviews but then covers up their findings. Labor spends millions of dollars on overseas travel but cuts maternity services in the bush. It is a complete disgrace when those opposite are focused on those matters rather than what really counts for Queenslanders.

When I was elected opposition leader I said that I would be an opposition leader with a plan. I said that I would be an opposition leader who offered solutions to this government. It is clear they like these solutions because we have seen those opposite now adopt seven of the LNP's plans—that is, seven of our policies. We have seen those opposite get on board with free swimming lessons for our kids—an LNP policy; real-time fuel price monitoring—an LNP policy, announced by those opposite but yet to be enacted; GPS tracking on dangerous sex offenders—an LNP policy; upgrading the M1—an LNP policy; duplicating Sunshine Coast rail—another LNP policy; having a third government generator to lower electricity prices—an LNP policy; also, mandating government investment in renewables—another LNP policy.

It is clear that this government has no fresh ideas of its own. It is clear that this government is bone lazy. It is clear that the Palaszczuk government has no plan, no interest and no energy in Queensland. It is only the LNP that has a clear plan for Queensland.