




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.17 pm): Last week was the fifth-year anniversary of the Palaszczuk government. If we were to deliver a report card on that government, it would be fail, fail, fail and fail. Let us look at the different subjects. First we have the economy. As the opposition leader has already said, over the term of this Palaszczuk government we have had the highest unemployment rate in the country. Disgracefully, we have the highest number of people on the long-term unemployment list, not per capita but the highest number. In the last year we have had the highest number of bankruptcies in the country, not per capita but on pure numbers. When it comes to the economy, those opposite have failed.

When it comes to health, our surgical waiting lists have blown out by 86 per cent under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Ambulance ramping has become rampant under the Palaszczuk government, increasing by 73 per cent. The number of Queenslanders on a dental waiting list has increased by 26.6 per cent in the past 12 months. When it comes to health, it is a fail once again.

Let us turn to education. Over the last five years almost half of all Queensland schools have slipped backwards. If we look at the NAPLAN results in year 5, comparing 2015 to 2019 shows that 531 of the 1,120 schools have slipped backwards—the biggest decline being 16.8 per cent. When it comes to education, it is a fail.

When it comes to law and order, it is mayhem in North Queensland, in particular in Townsville. It is mayhem on the Gold Coast. The crime situation in the north of Brisbane is also out of control. The solution of those opposite is to change some police administrative positions at the top. What needs to be changed is not policing, because our police do a great job; what needs to be changed is the law. It is only when the law is changed that we will have some sort of consequences for these youth offenders. When it comes to crime and law and order it is fail once again.

When it comes to public housing, when I was minister we reduced the public housing waiting list from 32,000 to 16,500. That has now slipped out to 24,000 under this minister who claims he cares for those who are disadvantaged, but he has made it harder for them and put more on the homeless list. When it comes to public housing it is fail.

We are in this situation because this government is fixated on itself. It has many troubles. It is totally focused on working out its internal divisions rather than focusing on Queensland people. That has been no more apparent than these last couple of weeks wherein the Deputy Premier has dismissed their internal division as gossip, despite reporters telling everybody that backbenchers are ringing them directly. Allegedly the member for Maryborough has said he has had enough. The minister for tourism was asked for comment about the Deputy Premier. She was suddenly unavailable. She would not come out and endorse her. Those opposite denied that they were having a leadership powwow between the senior members of the ministry and union heads. The heads of unions are involved in their strategic meetings because the unions run the Labor Party. Those opposite said that it was not going to happen but, of course, it happened and pictures of that meeting were leaked.

There is one member of the Labor Party who has stood up to this bullying and that is the member for Bundamba. She stood up to the corruption claims in relation to the Ipswich Labor council. Year after year after year she told the government that council was corrupt and they ignored her. She has had the courage to come out once again because she has nothing to lose. Every member opposite has not been preselected so that they can be kept in tow, but the member for Bundamba has the courage because she has nothing to lose. She has called this government out for what it is. Those opposite are bullies and they use strong-arm tactics to keep people in order. They are in disarray. They are out of control. Nobody has seen this disunity in a government, particularly the Labor government, ever and now they are unfit to govern.