



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Health System; March 4 Justice**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): When a government is losing control, it starts to blame others. When a government starts losing control, innocent people fall through the cracks. When a government starts losing control, innocent lives are lost.

Today, when the opposition sought, quite justifiably, to put the blowtorch on the performance of this government when it comes to everything from ambulance ramping being back in this state to unacceptable long-term hospital waiting lists, we were told that it was everybody else's fault. It was Canberra's fault because of funding and nursing home issues. We had the Premier say that it was the fault of a disease that was still two months away from this state for the five-year reporting period we were referring to. The minister blamed patients for daring to want to use medical facilities that they pay their taxes for. Make no mistake, ambulance ramping is back in this state because the government is losing control of its health system.

The health minister sought to say that raising these issues was somehow a slur on medical professionals and that the public were getting it wrong. Last night we decided to talk to everyday Queenslanders. We sent out a call to arms. Five minutes before walking into this place we had received 1,204 email responses from everyday Queenslanders—paramedics on the front line, doctors, nurses, mothers, fathers—who have had enough. Today, they get their voice on the floor of this House.

I apologise to this House for the content of the first two stories because they are a little graphic, but their stories are going to get told and those opposite are going to hear them. They are going to stand up and fight for constituents because every one of these are a story from a constituent of those opposite. The first comes from Karen from Caboolture. She says—

My niece went to the Caboolture Hospital at 2.30 pm suffering a suspected miscarriage. She was in considerable pain at this time. She walked out at 9.30 pm after sitting in the waiting room. They were too busy. She went home and miscarried there. She then went back the next day at 10 am. She waited in the waiting room, had bloods then back to the waiting room, had a scan then back to the waiting room. She was told she miscarried and was sent home. Not good enough.

Stacey from Logan said—

My uncle had to sit on a chair at night from 5 pm in the afternoon to 9 am the next morning, with terrible diarrhoea, which by the morning was pooled around his chair. I left him at 9 pm with his brother. When his brother and sister went back in the morning, he was still on the same chair—

a chair that those opposite sometimes classify as a bed, I might add—

He did not receive a bed until 3 pm that afternoon, and that was a 24-hour bed.

This man worked during his lifetime and paid his taxes. He lived off his savings after finishing work and refused to be a financial burden to society. He wouldn't apply for the age-old pension even though he was able. That was the very first time in his life he needed the emergency department at the hospital. Very disappointing.

It took me a lot to get him to go and get help. He was happy to stay in his home and die rather than go to hospital.

Let me tell the minister who said it is a slur on frontline health services a story about a paramedic from Hervey Bay. He said—

I happen to be one of the 45 paramedics working in the Bay. I have been a paramedic. Yes, ramping is bad here, and it is the same throughout Queensland. This happens also because there is not enough nursing staff to look after patients in all the ED beds. So there are empty beds because of the lack of staff.

Another problem is ED patients that are being admitted to either medical or surgical wards cannot do so because of the lack of beds in the ward. Again, from a lack of staffing. I am friends with a number of nurses in both medical and surgical wards.

He goes on to say—

Another way to reduce the ramping is reducing transfers from the Maryborough ED to the Hervey Bay ED. Every day on a daily basis, both day and night, we are like a taxi service running patients from Maryborough to Hervey Bay because Maryborough don't like handling sick patients.

Janine, a nurse from Caloundra, said—

I was taken by ambulance to Sunshine Coast University Hospital and I too was stuck on an ambulance bed for much more than 30 minutes. There was line after line of ambulance beds lined up waiting their turn. It was appalling.

Lucy from Redcliffe said—

Redcliffe Hospital not only has an ambulance problem but also bed and staff shortages. I've had to leave after waiting hours and not getting any help when my doctor thought I had a blood clot in my leg.

Time will prevent me going on, but there is also Dorothy from Aspley, Judith from Waterford, Joan from Condon and Julie from Greenslopes. There are over 1,200 of them. Do members want to know something? There will be another half a dozen by the time I go back to my office. There will be another dozen or so by tonight. Today, they had to sit there and listen to the Premier say that it is because of COVID and the minister say it was their fault because they dare turn up to an emergency department which they have paid taxes to support. I have news for them. These are real Queenslanders, honest Queenslanders and today they find their voice.

I again put on the record that the only slur on medical professionals is coming from those who refuse to properly resource them. The only slur on medical professionals is from those who will not admit there is a problem. Ambulance ramping had been fixed in this state. The minister can quote numbers all she likes. She can say there is record funding. She can talk about dollar figures, but dollars do not mean anything to somebody who is sitting in a pile of diarrhoea and their own blood. That is what we are seeing in the stories of real Queenslanders. We will call it out for what it is.

In my remaining time, I wish to raise what is an important issue and one where our community has found its voice. I talk about what started as an issue in Canberra but spread throughout our state, and rightly so. Along with my colleague the member for Mudgeeraba, I was proud to attend the March 4 Justice. It was a march that stretched for a distance longer than I have ever seen come to this place.

As I spoke with participants I heard the stories of people who had not marched before, people who had not marched for decades and people who wanted to have their voices heard. I commend them for doing so. We must continue to make sure that as a result of the voices that have been found that real change is made. I acknowledge that this is a conversation that started in our nation's capital, but it is one that we must have through every workplace in this land, and that includes our workplace here.

I acknowledge the contributions from those opposite this morning. I acknowledge the contributions from our members both male and female. It is vital that we create a workplace here and a society where equality, fairness and justice mean something to us all. So it is that I commit today that the party I lead must reflect Queensland's diversity. In the weeks ahead I will be laying out the initiatives I believe are essential to reform our party. One of them will be ensuring the party actively seeks younger, more diverse and a larger portion of women for vacant seats. This is important. It is important for us to be a diverse political movement. It is important for our parliament and it is important for the voices of those who have taken every ounce of strength to tell their stories—brave women, brave young men, brave people in society who have stood up for change. We as a parliament and as a party must applaud and continue to reflect that mood.