




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The government is losing control of Queensland Health because the Premier is not being transparent. The government is losing control of Queensland Health because the minister is not across her brief. Today in question time we asked some very simple questions. We asked for details of a proposal, put forward on behalf of Queenslanders, for an alternate system of quarantining. They were not gotcha questions. They were not tricky. They were straightforward questions looking for straightforward answers.

The government submitted a 15-page report looking for support from the Commonwealth. We are told that nearly two-thirds of those pages are either diagrams or pictures. After the Premier said that there was a far more detailed analysis and detailed submissions, media sources requested access to that information but have been blocked. Today we asked whether or not Queenslanders could see what is in that proposal and we were told it was commercial-in-confidence. I contrast that with Victoria's submission. The Premier always seeks to portray Canberra as being political and as wanting to pick a fight because the government in this House is a different colour to the one in Canberra. I ask: why is it that Victoria's Labor government has managed to put forward a submission that is being analysed—a submission that has detail to go with it?

The Minister for Health was not just lacking in transparency; she was not across the detail of the brief that she seeks to oversee. To see her attempting to answer questions without any knowledge about the proposal or about the situation that is going on around her was a little embarrassing. It started with a straightforward question about the transport of patients out of quarantine. We want to know what the plan is. If somebody flies into a regional quarantine facility, what is the plan to get them to a hospital? Where will that hospital be located? If the plan is to use an ambulance, where will the ambulance come from? Currently in this state police officers are acting as de facto ambos. Where will the extra resources come from?

The member for Ninderry asked a pretty straightforward question about elective surgery being cancelled. The minister was clueless. Later she gladly came back in to say that only a few elective surgeries were cancelled. However, for the minister to not know that when she walked into this House for question time shows that she is not across her brief. When you have a portfolio as serious as health, you have to be across your brief. Then at the end of question time we heard that there were no code yellows in the south-east at 8.30 am.

Mrs Frecklington: What happened at 9.30?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection: I am not sure what happened at 9.30 or 10.30, but I would like to know what is going on with the system that the government is losing control of, because honest Queenslanders are being affected. During question time the member for Nanango summed it up very cleverly when she asked us to think about the families, many of which have come from other places.

They have fasted and gone without work. They have packed up to come here for elective surgery, only to have the rug pulled out from underneath them because the government is losing control of the system.

Today we are hearing about the outbreak in Melbourne, which shows how important it is that we fix the system of quarantining. Before the government talks about where, we want to know how they are going to fix quarantining in this state. We want them to give people clarity. While I am on the subject of clarity, we need a bit of clarity in messaging. It needs to be open and transparent. The government has no plan for the vaccine rollout. The Premier had no plan for her own vaccine schedule. The greatest gift that we in this House can give to the community is confidence. The only way to heal our economy and to heal broken families is to ensure that people understand that vaccines save lives and that vaccines are a step towards normality. Confidence also means that businesses will be willing to invest. People are looking to this state as a place to hold events and the opposition will be outlining more about that. It is through confidence that people will be willing to invest in this state, creating jobs into the future.

A lack of planning is something that we see right across the government and not just in the health system. We see a lack of planning with our housing supply. There is a lack of social housing. There is a lack of infrastructure to open up new housing opportunities. We see it in law and order with crime out of control on the streets of North Queensland, where people are frustrated and scared. They want a government that can take control of law and order in this state. As I said, we also see it in our health and hospital systems.

We also see evidence of that lack of planning only a matter of metres away. According to the *Notice Paper* there is one bill to be debated. The government has no plan. There is no agenda. I contrast that with a similar sitting in 2018 when there were 14 government bills on the *Notice Paper*—and they weren't breaking records back then, I can tell the House that! What has changed? Has the government run out of puff? Is it because nearly half of those bills were introduced by ministers who no longer sit in this place? Is this current crop even worse than the last one? Is that what we have come to?

People were willing to cut this government some slack because when they were elected in 2015 it came as a surprise, probably even to themselves. However, it has been six years. They cannot keep trading on fear. They cannot keep trading on a scare campaign. They cannot keep trading on nothing more than gutter politics. At some stage the community wants to see an agenda. At the opening of this parliament, His Excellency the Governor said 'no-one presumes to expect perfection, but they expect the highest endeavour, a positive focus and an unselfish purpose'. Is no agenda honest endeavour? Is no agenda a positive focus? Is no agenda unselfish purpose?

The government does not understand why it wants to be in power. There is no strategy to give certainty to agriculture, not just to maintain what we have but to allow it to expand. There is no plan for a water strategy to give people hope, encouraging them to invest in their communities. There is no strategy to ensure a balance between a mining industry that knows that it can be productive for generations to come and the highest environmental standards on the globe, which will ensure that people will want to invest. There is no strategy for tourism in terms of opening up our natural wonders and doing that in a respectful manner. There is no strategy for infrastructure delivery in the south-east. There is no strategy for business relocation to encourage people to move to Queensland not just because of affordable housing or our magnificent lifestyle; but to move to Queensland as the land of opportunity where businesses will want to be headquartered, where people can invest, where people are able to earn a living in whatever profession they wish and in whatever part of the state they wish to live. There is no agenda for innovation. There is no agenda for a modern economy. There is no agenda whatsoever from those sitting on the other side of the chamber.

We have heard a lot about this government. We have heard a lot about the scare campaigns, but they have continued to drift along. Sadly for Queenslanders, they get another 3½ years of this drifting. At the end of it, the scare campaigns will not cut it anymore. The fearmongering after a decade will be old hat. We will hear the same names, they will try to dig up the same ghosts, they will try to talk about an asset sale agenda that was never tested—the denial of a lack of purpose will be gone. What they know, because they are living it now, is that when a government does not focus on service delivery, when a government has people who are out of their depth, when a government does not believe in transparency, it starts losing control of what matters to Queenslanders.