




Speech By
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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Southern Queensland, Weather Event; Health System

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): On behalf of the opposition I wish to express our deepest sympathies to the families of the two flood victims—at North Branch and Kingsthorpe—and another missing. It is deeply concerning, following on from what has been a really tragic start to the year. There are several communities at the moment that are dealing with flooding, but I particularly highlight Dalby and Warra. I know that beaches on the Gold Coast are closed. There are flood warnings for the Nerang and Coomera rivers. Logan and Albert rivers have minor to moderate flooding. I know that there are over 100 roads closed across Queensland. On behalf of everyone on this side of the House, and indeed the parliament, we say to every Queenslanders, please stay safe during these troubling times.

Queenslanders no longer trust this government to fix the health system. Of all the horror stories that we have told in this House, of all the brave victims who have sat in that gallery who have come forward and told their stories about the unacceptable delays waiting for an ambo to arrive, about the waiting list for the waiting list, the elective surgery delays, the stories from the brave health whistleblowers who have come forward and told us what it is like to work under a system like this one, the one that has left so many Queenslanders baffled as to the state of Queensland Health is that it took the opposition to reveal that Queensland was the only jurisdiction in calendar year 2019-20 where the wrong surgery was performed on the wrong patient causing that person to either be seriously hurt or dead. That is just unacceptable in a First World health system.

Imagine being the family. Imagine being the family of someone who went in for what may have been knee surgery and that person may have then had their heart operated on. Just imagine being that family. Imagine getting the phone call to say that that had happened. But did they receive the phone call? Did they receive the justice they deserve? I can say who they did not get the phone call from. They did not get the phone call from the health minister because the health minister did not know it had occurred. It follows a worrying—

Mr Bailey: It was before she was the minister, you nong! It was before she was the minister!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock! Member for Miller, I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The minister withdrew, but I will take the interjection. The minister has quite rightly pointed out that the current minister was not the minister, but I dare say she does not have to look too far to get the answer because the Deputy Premier was in fact the minister. There has been a doctor who has just been unceremoniously dumped by his own factional colleague there.

One way or another, this family deserves justice. One way or another this family deserves an answer. It is a worrying trend of ministers in this state and the Premier refusing to get across their brief, refusing to answer the tough questions. During question time, they had no problems: briefs flying

around, giving information from a decade ago, but not one person was able to answer sensible questions. What hospital did it occur in? What systems have been put in place to make sure it never happens again?

Ms KING: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My concern and my point of order is that, given the response received from the minister this morning, the Leader of the Opposition is in danger of misleading the House.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! When I am taking a point of order, I do not need assistance from anyone in this chamber. Member for Pumicestone, continue your point of order.

Ms KING: My point of order, Deputy Speaker, is that the Leader of the Opposition is coming dangerously close to misleading the House and I ask—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. There is a process for dealing with misleading the House. You will follow that process.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We cannot trust this government to get an ambo to your door, we cannot trust this government to get people through the ED and now we cannot trust this government to do the right surgery on the right person. That is a deeply concerning trend: for the minister to be unaware of this incident, for the minister to have not ever made contact with the family, for the minister to sit in this House and not be able to answer the simplest of questions about a failing of a system, about a failure of putting steps in place to ensure it never happens again to another Queensland family. Despite all the bits of paper that were flying around, one thing is beyond any doubt: Queensland is the only state where this occurred, and that is a deeply troubling scenario which must be rectified.

Why are we having this fight? I will tell you why we are having this fight: we are doing it on behalf of the patients and the brave people in the health system who are at breaking point, who are calling out, looking for somebody to be on their side, to give them an opportunity to heal the Queensland Health crisis.

You want to talk about trust? As of 10 minutes ago, before I walked in this place, the opposition still had not received a response to a question on notice that was due yesterday about severity assessment codes. Do you know what that data says, Mr Deputy Speaker? You will know. It is the internal report on errors made in hospitals. We would like to see that on behalf of the Queenslanders. We are determined to help staff drive the change they need to fix the Queensland Health crisis.

Just a few days ago, the opposition was able to reveal 911 pages of horror reading on the Queensland Health crisis. What did they show? They showed patients waiting over 10 hours for an ambulance to come. They showed a patient in a wheelchair waiting three hours at the end of a ramp. They showed a culture where ambos had to use their own cars to ferry themselves between stations. They showed a culture of a health system which the people no longer trust this government to fix.

Let me bring a few new facts from a little more recently. Last night there were ramping times at the PA of two hours and 20 minutes; at the Mater public of 3½ hours; at Ipswich where a brave family member sent me a photo just last night—

Mr Bailey: So stand up for more funding from Canberra. You never stand up for Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Miller.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Last night somebody waited five hours. Last Friday in Metro South, a 1A case waited half an hour. Imagine that—a 1A case waited half an hour. This is not the fault of the ambos. I hear the Minister for Transport saying, 'Stand up.' We have stood up. We will do two things in contrast to the government. We will demand from Canberra our fair share of funding regardless of who is there, whether it is blue or whether it is red. I will never play politics with health, whether it is—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is plenty enough noise outside this chamber today without us descending into a rabble in here.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We will continue to be the voice for whistleblowers and patients. We will never play politics with health. We will step up; whether it is a government which wears a blue jersey or a red jersey in Canberra, we will demand our fair share. There will be a difference between us and those opposite. Let me tell honourable members the difference is we accept that health is a responsibility of the state government and we have put our solutions on the table to heal the health crisis. The shadow minister and I have gone around the state and done something that the government has stopped doing during its third term: we have listened. We have listened to people and they have put forward their solutions: better triaging, better resources, better data in real time and putting doctors and nurses back in charge. That is how we will heal the Queensland health crisis.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Capalaba, you are on a warning.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We will continue to put forward our solutions to heal the Queensland health crisis. It is unacceptable for families to wait hours on the end of a phone when a frustrated paramedic is waiting hours at the end of a ramp. It is the result of a system where the emergency departments are overflowing because a government is refusing to listen and act on the solutions—the solutions that we are putting forward, the solutions that patients are putting forward, the solutions that our brave health workers on the front line are putting forward.

Trust matters in health. Queenslanders have given up trusting this government. When a government cannot deliver basic services, when a government cannot deal with the issues they are faced with and when a government cannot even conduct the right surgery on the right patient, you know health is in crisis in this state.