



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2022

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Health System, Data Reporting; Federal Labor Government**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Today is the 144th day of the year and Queenslanders cannot see one skerrick of data to tell them what is the situation with their health system at the moment in this state—and that is after 144 days. Today we came in to question time and asked some questions on their behalf. We wanted to know what the up-to-date ambulance ramping figures were. We wanted to know what the ambulance wait times were. We asked questions about the elective surgery wait times, the emergency department delays and the waitlists for the waitlists. We have seen nothing.

Today the government says they will release the data in May. Here is a newsflash: we are deep into May. For the minister to suggest that it cannot be done now tells me one thing and one thing only: this government does not want to face the music. I have a sneaking suspicion that the figures have deteriorated further. After half a decade of decline the Queensland health crisis continues to deteriorate under the watch of this minister and this government. They have stopped listening, they have stopped acting and they have stopped caring, and Queenslanders are collateral damage.

We know that the minister receives data formally on the 10th day of every month. We know from RTIs that the minister receives it weekly, yet Queenslanders are not even given the decency of being shown January's figures! We are now towards the end of May. There are failings every day impacting everyday Queenslanders—people whom we have met as we have toured the state listening. There is Sandra from Ipswich. Can you imagine her thoughts when a terrified young boy was gasping for air while waiting for an ambulance that did not come? There is Brian from Ipswich, who is in his later years of life and waited six hours to get care at the Ipswich Hospital after falling in his backyard. There is Siahn from Gladstone. She suffers multiple seizures every day and she cannot even get in to see a specialist to try to get treatment to bring some normality back to her life. Amongst more than 100 people who turned up in Bundaberg, we met Peter. He has been waiting for a hip for 420 days.

Then last night there was the story of a five-year-old boy called Hiyaan. We do not know the details, but reports indicate that he was taken to Logan Hospital on Sunday night with stomach pains. He waited in the emergency room for four hours. He was discharged at 10 pm. He died later that night after being driven by his dad back to the hospital. I have seen the family asking for answers. They deserve no less. They deserve answers to what went on. On behalf of the opposition and this parliament, we say sorry to the Kapil family for their loss. No parent should go through that.

We must keep working every day to heal the Queensland Health crisis. We have put our solutions on the table as we have gone around the state listening to doctors, to nurses, to paramedics, to patients, to families. We have listened. We have acted. We want to see doctors and nurses back in charge. We want better triaging. We want the data in real time. Right now we would accept seeing January's data, yet we are now deep into May.

In other hospitals across this nation you can see data in real time, and that helps with resources and it helps drive a culture of service. We also want better resources—more beds, more staff, more equipment. If you listened to the Premier, there was only one way to fix this last element, and that was that it all had to come from Canberra. This is despite a cut over the last three years to the health and hospital networks at the front line and despite increases in health funding from both state and federal governments. Now we have been led to believe by the Premier that there will be a new dawn when it comes to health funding—fifty-fifty, I believe, was what was discussed.

On behalf of every Queenslander, we want to know when does the fifty-fifty funding deal start? When will the money hit the front line? When will we see more beds and more doctors and more nurses? When will we have an ambulance ramping rate that is not the worst in the nation? When will Queenslanders know when they pick up the phone that at the end of it is not a frustrated paramedic waiting at the end of a ramp while they suffer in their hour of need? The Premier said Queensland hospitals are for Queenslanders. Queensland hospitals are the responsibility of the Queensland government. Get on with it and fix it!

The Premier injected herself into the election campaign. She made it her remit to tell Queenslanders to vote for a change of government. She did it on many occasions. In one seat in particular she put store in injecting herself, and that was the seat of Ryan. She did robocalls. There was a direct mail piece. She was on the pre-poll. The current numbers showed, in an election where a Labor government came into power, that there was a swing against the Labor Party in this seat and in this state. There were no net gains. The coalition, in an election loss, holds 70 per cent of the seats in Queensland.

What I will not do though is follow the lead of the Premier and spend the next two and a bit years launching a political war with Canberra. What we say, as we did at the first possible opportunity, is that we wish the new Prime Minister all the best. We look forward to working well and productively with them because that is what Queenslanders expect and deserve.

During his victory speech, Mr Albanese made a point about what it would be like for a young child in social housing to see a prime minister come from a background like his. I thought that was a remarkable contribution. I also think it is quite special that for the first time in the nation's capital the Prime Minister will have a non-Anglo-Saxon surname. I grew up in a community where I only saw Anglo-Saxon surnames on the walls of my community, despite it being a proud multicultural community with a very large Italian heritage. I think that is another barrier that has been broken on behalf of every Australian, and we should acknowledge that today.

I have been through a few elections and I have been on both sides of the ledger. There is one thing that is clear, and that is that governments must listen—governments must listen and respond. Come election time governments need to be able to stand on their record. This one in Queensland will be in a lot of trouble. As the new Prime Minister said, governments do not get better in their fourth term!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! I remind members of the opposition that your interjections are interrupting your own leader and making it difficult for anybody to hear what he is saying.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** They do not get better in their fourth term. Mr Deputy Speaker, let me tell you the things Queenslanders would want to see if the government could stop playing petty politics. They would want to see: a government that focuses on an economy for everyone, where those who aspire to more will be given the opportunity and those who are not able to do so will be given the comfort of knowing that the government will have its back; a government that will be honest with its books and not use trickery to try and prop up a very shaky budget; a government that believes in service delivery so that when somebody picks up a phone—and pays their tax—they know that an ambo will come; a government that, when someone comes into your house who does not belong there, a person in a blue uniform will turn up and, heaven forbid, they might even have the laws to stop the repeat offender from going back around time and time again; a government where an education system can have first-class facilities wherever a child goes; a government where someone in the bush deserves access to first-class medical facilities and they do not need to have a baby on the side of a road; a government where people in Ipswich having to step over people lying on the floor in an emergency department can be in the rear-view mirror; and a government that values transparency and accountability and does not give up, unlike this tired fourth-term government.