




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability Royal Commission, Recommendations

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services) (10.07 am): Last week the Disability Royal Commission released its report into public hearing 33, Kaleb and Jonathon. It found the state had failed the two boys and that frontline services could have done more to assist them. This review spanned multiple governments, portfolios and events over a 20-year period of the boys' lives from 2000 to 2020. Like me, I think all Queenslanders were horrified by the reports of the violence, abuse, neglect and deprivation of rights that those boys suffered whilst in the care of their father. On behalf of the government I sincerely apologised to the boys and expressed deep regret at their experience. I also noted the whole-of-government response should and could have been better. This should never have happened and we are working to make sure something like this never happens again.

On Monday, cabinet considered the recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission in relation to this hearing. Today I table the royal commission public hearing report 33 and the Queensland government response to the five recommendations made by the commission.

Tabled paper: Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability—Public Hearing Report: Public Hearing 33, 'Violence, abuse, neglect and deprivation of human rights: Kaleb and Jonathon (a case study)', 8 to 10 May 2023 [1313](#).

Tabled paper: Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability—Public Hearing Report: Public Hearing 33, 'Violence, abuse, neglect and deprivation of human rights: Kaleb and Jonathon (a case study)', 8 to 10 May 2023, government response [1314](#).

I am pleased to advise the House that we have accepted or accepted in principle all five recommendations. The government response is as follows. Recommendation 1 is to increase training and resources for government employees. That is accepted. Recommendation 2 is to further incorporate voices and experiences of people with disability in the child protection system. That is accepted in principle. Recommendation 3 is to review section 13E(1)(d) of the Child Protection Act to consider if mandatory child safety reporting requirements should apply to all Queensland police officers. That is accepted. Recommendation 4 is for a substantial expansion of the Queensland Public Guardian's Child Advocate scheme beyond categories of children in the tertiary child protection system to children and young people with disability at risk of entering the child protection system. That is accepted in principle.

Recommendation 5.1 is for an apology, which I delivered on 5 September 2023. Recommendations 5.2 to 5.4 are for an independent review. I refer to the announcement this morning by the Attorney-General, who advised that the Queensland Ombudsman has discussed the recommendation with the Attorney-General and will be conducting the independent investigation. Recommendation 5.5 refers to redress. On this, the Queensland government will confer with Kaleb and Jonathon's representatives about the royal commission's recommendation for redress and ongoing support. The final report by the Disability Royal Commission is due at the end of the month and the Queensland government will consider all relevant recommendations from that report.