



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 May 2023

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Nash, Ms I; Youth Crime; Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.30 pm): Heroes run into danger when others run away and Izabella Nash was a hero. The thoughts of this parliament are with her work colleagues, her friends, her partner, her family and her injured colleague, Lia Drew. I join the minister in the comments that he made this morning.

I also place on the record an acknowledgement of the hurt currently being felt following another tragedy. The Wide Bay is suffering following the loss of innocent lives: 17-year-old Kelsey Davies, 29-year-old Michale Chandler, and 52-year-old Sheree Robertson, a brave nurse who was returning home following a shift. Kaylah Behrens remains in hospital. I visited Maryborough following that tragedy because I wanted to listen to and feel what that community is feeling. Time and time again the call for real reform rang true. Queenslanders want to know that something will change. There was another question being asked and it is one that I have heard across this state: where is the Premier?

The other day, brave victims put aside their emotions and their pain to sit on a panel for the *Today* show and tell their stories. That was the Premier's chance to listen to people who have lost loved ones and others who have had the most incredibly difficult experiences in their homes and in their cars. The people in that room were asking: where is the Premier?

There is a helplessness seeping into Queenslanders buckling under the crime crisis and I want to offer them hope. I want them to know that it does not have to be like this. I urge members in this place to leave this precinct and go and listen to people in small and family businesses and to people in their homes. I urge them to listen to people who have had their cars stolen. Let them talk about the impact of that emotionally, the disruption when trying to get to work and the financial implications. I urge members to listen to people who have experienced violent assaults in the street and are afraid to go out. I urge them to listen to people who are debating where to leave their keys: should they put them under their pillow in the hope that an offender does not find them, or should they leave them at the front door so that if someone breaks into their home that offender does not go past their kid's bedroom before they get to theirs? Those are not debates that Queenslanders should have to have.

This morning, the comments from the government were out of touch. The Attorney-General said the outcome is showing good signs. The Deputy Premier spruiked that the laws were working. I urge them to go and listen to Queenslanders because Queenslanders are not saying those things. The RACQ called it out: we are the crime capital of the country. We have seen images of young offenders ramming police cars. There was a time in this state when young offenders ran from the police; now they run at them. How have we got to this stage? We have seen offenders hanging out of a car attempting to hit golf balls at police engaging in a low-speed pursuit. How did we get to this point in Queensland?

Today the real embarrassment was the Minister for Police. He would not answer this simple question: in Queensland are there more or less full-time-equivalent frontline police today than there were two years ago? If the workforce data had been released then the minister would not have to duck

and dive because it would show it in black and white. The government is walking away from a commitment to add 450 personnel, that is, actual people on the ground. If you need to dial triple 0, you will not be allocated an approved officer or be given the time when that approved officer might be able to get to you. That does not work. It only works if there are available full-time-equivalent frontline officers.

That has been the metric this government has always used but, as opposed to delivering on their commitment, the government is now rewriting history. Queenslanders are not going to cop the Palaszczuk government's spin when it comes to police numbers. For the government to now be walking away is a deadset cop-out. It is a cop-out. The commitment was made, but the government is so far from meeting that commitment that it is going backwards at a time when Queenslanders have never needed frontline officers more. The government is not listening, and when governments stop listening to Queenslanders then Queenslanders stop listening to governments.

We have put our solutions on the table and we will continue to do so. It starts with consequences for actions and putting victims ahead of young criminals. It looks like unshackling the judiciary and removing the nonsense of detention as a last resort. It looks like gold-standard early intervention with proper funding and resourcing to turn kids around before they are holding a knife at someone's throat or ramming police cars as officers try to do their job.

The Premier continues to say that the parliament voted on the laws. The Premier had a chance to unshackle the judiciary but she chose to back the UN over Queenslanders. Queenslanders living in fear will not forget that. The government has blamed everyone but themselves: the police, the magistrates, the parents. When young offenders are under the care of the state it is very difficult to blame the parents.

The government is unwilling to accept responsibility for any of the crises that are unfolding in this state because of a failure of frontline service delivery. Last week in Gladstone we gathered in a park because, for over 300 days, local women have not been able to have their babies where, when and how they choose. That is happening in a city of 60,000 people. We listened to the mothers. I attended that meeting as did the shadow health minister and the neighbouring member of parliament. We did not dismiss it as a stunt. We listened. Where was the Premier? Where was the health minister? Where was the local member? Again, more Queenslanders were asking: where is the Premier?

So it is with housing. In the middle of one of the greatest cost-of-living crises that this state has experienced, the government called a summit and admitted that this is their responsibility, but then failed to deliver on their signature policy. That policy was meant to ensure that dwellings—dwellings that were already built and already had trees surrounding them—could come online to deliver homes for the most vulnerable. However, after six months, \$2 million and many committees, still there are Queenslanders who are living in their cars because the government simply cannot plan and deliver things.

Whether it is health, whether it is housing, whether it is the management of national parks, whether it is asbestos in our schools or whether it is law and order, Queenslanders are suffering from a crisis in the delivery of frontline services because of a government that, after nearly a decade in power, has lost the right to govern because it has stopped listening to Queenslanders. This government is in chaos. This government is governing from crisis to crisis. Queenslanders are demanding solutions to the cost-of-living pressures they are facing. They are demanding solutions to the health crisis that is seeing ambulances ramped and people stuck at the end of a waiting list just to get on a waiting list. This is a crisis that means that young mums are unable to have their babies where they live. Queenslanders are being stuck at the end of a queue for social housing and they are being stuck in their homes as they wait for reform to law and order and more police numbers, as was promised. Overall, Queenslanders are asking: where is the Premier?