




Speech By
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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Queensland Health—in crisis. Housing affordability—in crisis. Youth crime—in crisis. The only Queenslander who has just heard about the crises impacting this state for the first time is the Premier. Queenslanders are living through it, and while ministers were climbing over each other asking, ‘What job do I get next?’, Queenslanders were asking, ‘When will things get better for us?’ No rebrand, reshuffle, reheat, recycle—whatever you want to call it—is going to change it if it is the same people around the cabinet table who have led to the mess that we are in today.

People are asking, ‘Where is the help?’ The housing crisis has not just developed in the last shower; it has been eight years of underinvestment, of falling lot approvals by 33 per cent and a social housing waiting list that has gone from 20,000 to 50,000—and for two years running Queensland has spent less per head of population than any other state in the country.

My vision is a place where working Queenslanders can afford to keep a roof over their head. My vision is for a place where young Queenslanders can aspire to own a new home and where the most vulnerable can keep a roof over their head. Our solutions are infrastructure partnerships and embracing critical housing and social housing targets.

The health crisis is not new. Labor was losing control of health long before COVID. Ramping had already doubled from 15 per cent to 30 per cent, and today it is at 41 per cent. The number of patients getting elective surgery on time has reduced from 98 per cent to 78 per cent. The elective surgery waiting list has gone from 30,000 to nearly 60,000, and the number of patients waiting longer than 24 hours is up 225 per cent. Our solutions include better resourcing, better triaging, sharing data in real time and putting doctors and nurses back in charge.

The crime crisis is not something that has happened in the last week. Unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 105 per cent. Unlawful entry is up 62 per cent. Queenslanders who have lost loved ones ask where the Premier has been when they needed her most. The government’s public sector workforce profile shows numbers of full-time-equivalent police have fallen in this state at a time when weaker laws have made their job even tougher. Our solutions are consequences for actions, unshackle the judiciary and remove detention as a last resort, and gold standard early intervention.

Health, housing, crime—these problems might be new to the Premier, but they are not new to Queenslanders. They are living through it every day. They are living through it when they go to a hospital and they see our frontline staff battered, bruised and undervalued and scrambling to keep a health service on the road. They see it when they pick up the phone after someone has been through their house, when their car is missing, and they have fewer police and weaker laws to deal with it. They see it when their child wants to buy their first property and when working people are forced out of their own home because they cannot afford it. They see it when the most vulnerable in our community cannot

keep a roof over their head. The Premier's solution might be to make the same people do a different job around the same table, but it is the same government that has presided over eight years of mess in this state.

In all the chaos and crisis, the government has forgotten to name a minister for youth. At a time when young people have never been under more pressure, the government forgot about young people. Young people want to aspire to buy their own home, young people aspire to get a job where they live, and young people aspire for action on climate, yet this government has forgotten a minister for youth. What a shame! Swallow your pride. Admit you got it wrong. Admit you overlooked it. Install a minister for youth in Queensland today and give young people a voice.