



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 14 November 2023

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Queensland Health is in crisis and it is costing Queenslanders time and money, and it is costing them their lives. The data shows it. Ambulance ramping is at 43 per cent: that remains the worst in the country and there is no line in sight when it will return to 15 per cent. There are 59,000 people on the elective surgery waiting list: that is worse than any September quarter under this government. There are 276,000 Queenslanders waiting for specialist appointments: that is higher than in September 2021. Then today we had a minister who stood up and tried to distort these figures, to somehow brush over the cries for help from patients and staff. When your priorities are fixing figures and the media coverage instead of patient safety and fixing the system, that is when you end up with a situation that a brave young woman whom I met today found herself in.

Muskaan Hussain wants answers to what happened to her dad, and the person who could give them decided not to. The health minister knew about the fungal cluster and patients were not told. It has been a fortnight since the health minister knew. There was no compassion shown. Instead, there was a focus to keep a lid on the process. Instead of informing families of what was happening to their loved ones, the minister knew and failed to tell patients until it was about to become a media issue for her. Muskaan is searching for answers for her family. She did not get them. The family deserves the truth, and the minister owes it to them to tell the truth when she is next in this House.

We also deserve to hear the truth about what the state government has agreed to on federal Labor's chopping block. For 180 days the opposition has highlighted the 'pipeline of pain'. It will cost Queenslanders roads, rail and time with their family. Finally today the Premier admitted that it is her job, so she wrote a letter to Canberra. The Premier only put pen to paper to plead our case once the ink was dry on Canberra's callous cuts.

This morning the Premier said that a federal Labor government would deliver 50-50 funding. Well, it did—not to increase health funding as promised but to reduce infrastructure funding for Queenslanders. It is the first time that I wish it was a broken Labor promise. There has been a 50-50 funding commitment delivered, but it is to force downwards the amount of money for Queensland rather than upwards, which is what our state deserves with the growing pains we are experiencing. The Premier is so blindly loyal to the Prime Minister that it took over 180 days to pluck up the courage to even have a fake fight. The LNP has called this out from day one. We will continue to fight for our fair share now, during and after the election. Queensland deserves no less.

This government has the wrong priorities, and that was on display in question time: hospital hours cut and a minister clueless—a minister who knows exactly what happened 10 years ago but is clueless about what happened 10 days ago under her watch; an infrastructure pipeline of pain and barely a whisper until it was too late, yet the government puts up a fake fight; and now a focus on hiding polling.

The Premier always says that the only poll that matters is the one on election day. Why, then, would she spend hundreds of thousands of Queensland taxpayers' dollars to save her job today? Why do we have a government so focused on its own survival rather than on what Queenslanders are experiencing in their lives? Queenslanders are living with a health crisis, a youth crime crisis, a cost-of-living crisis and a housing crisis. This government's focus is on how it can get secret polling to try to save itself from facing its date with destiny. That is when you know that a government has the wrong priorities. At a time when Queenslanders are barely surviving week to week, a government will spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to try to secure its political future. If the only poll that matters is the one on election day, why would the Premier spend hundreds of thousands of dollars today to secure her political future?