




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Traffic Infringement Notices; CFMEU and Office of Industrial Relations

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.18 pm): I want to tell the story of young Sebastian, who lives in Wurtulla in my electorate. Sebastian is 10 years old. He was diagnosed with a severe disability in 2014. Members would know that the Queensland government has recently commenced issuing seatbelt camera infringement notices by taking photos inside people's cars. Since then Sebastian's father has received three or four fines. These fines were issued because Sebastian is pictured wearing a seatbelt incorrectly—not flush across his shoulder—just at the time of the photo.

Sebastian's compulsive disability-related movements are seen as a violation of the seatbelt laws in the state of Queensland. This is pure discrimination against a 10-year-old boy with a severe disability. His father is about to lose his licence, because of the points he has lost, as well as his job and possibly their livelihood. Sebastian's parents wrote to TMR and it is now noted that an exemption will exist in the future on their file for Sebastian, but I am calling on the state government to show compassion and common sense and withdraw all the fines issued to Sebastian's dad. The QRO replied to Sebastian's parents, only waiving one of the fines, despite evidence from Sebastian's doctors that Sebastian was diagnosed with a severe disability in 2014.

I have written about this urgently to Treasurer Dick and as yet I have not even had a response, despite the fact that today is the day that Sebastian's father will likely lose his licence. Therefore, I am forced to raise this issue on behalf of 10-year-old Sebastian who lives in my electorate who I met a few weeks ago with his mum. It has forced me to raise this matter in parliament today because I give a damn about kids with disabilities and so should the government. I think it is disgraceful that the fines have not been waived. The government has got to show common sense, compassion and courtesy to a young kid with disability, rather than the bureaucratic fines being issued to Sebastian's family. I again call on Treasurer Dick and Minister Mark Bailey to sort this out for the sake of Sebastian's family.

I want to raise another issue. A year ago I wrote to the CCC alleging issues with respect to the Office of Industrial Relations and the CFMEU. That was over a year ago now. The report has been sitting on the deputy director-general's desk in the Office of Industrial Relations for over a year. Even as the complainant, I have not seen the report. On 6 July 2021, 24 January 2022, 16 March 2022, 6 June 2022 and 1 September 2022, I received advice that the government was still considering the report. The Minister for Industrial Relations is in the chamber today. What is she hiding? If this government believes in openness and transparency, it should release the report. It has been sitting on her desk for over one year.

(Time expired)