



Speech By  
**Amanda Camm**


**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Child Safety**

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.25 pm): For over three years now I have been calling out the failures of this Labor government's child safety system. Previous to me it was the member for Burnett and the member for Mudgeeraba who have prosecuted on behalf of vulnerable children across this state. For nine years this government has failed these children. They have pointed the finger at everybody else, not taking any responsibility for themselves. Major service providers are walking away from a system on the edge of collapse. We are hearing on the ground of the extreme case loads and the pressure on the front line. This government keeps saying it is all fine.

Two cases have filled our media in the last week and have pointed to some of the key issues we have seen and show that for some time now things have not been fine at all. On Sunday the ABC published the article titled 'How to make a killer'. It is a title that was clearly made to be provocative, but its contents are even more disturbing. The long-form article paints the picture of the young man who killed Angus Beaumont and how the failings of the child safety system led him to that act. The report quotes Amy, a community worker who helped the young offender and had reported her concerns to Child Safety dozens of times. The article states—

'We could actually see this coming, myself and another colleague had gone to the department and said that exact thing,' she says.

'That if you don't do something, this was the outcome—and that was the outcome.

'This was a preventable thing that happened. If somebody had just done something to look after him, we wouldn't be in this situation.'

Angus Beaumont did not deserve to die. He deserved to have a government that was proactive about community safety. I want to read part of the article relating to the comments from his mother, Michelle. It states—

When she spoke with the ABC, she was 'angry and heartbroken' to learn the Queensland government had been warned about the lethal trajectory of one of his killers.

'He did not deserve to die ... they could have stopped them at any turn,' she says.

'It just confirms what we all know—the system failed in every way.

'It failed through youth justice, children's services, through the court system and through the legislation that police have to work with.'

These are all systems and legislation that were brought about by this Labor government. Angus's parents should not have to live without him, but years on they face the pain every single day. There is no denying that there are many young people caught up in the youth justice system and they have faced disadvantage. They are vulnerable. We recognise that. The Premier spoke about that this morning. What the Premier missed was the role that this government has played in contributing to the

disadvantage these young people are facing and the creation through a broken system that has led some of these young offenders to the actions we have seen or the opportunities that have been missed to intervene with devastating consequences. I have heard members opposite outline many times that there is no correlation between the child safety system and youth justice. That is rubbish—absolute rubbish. It is about time accountability was taken.

Child Safety cannot prevent a child coming to harm before they are under Child Safety's care. Once a young person is known to Child Safety, they have every opportunity to make a difference and they fall under the minister's responsibility as that child's guardian. Instead, again and again this government fails. Again and again, despite family and friends, community members, service providers and countless reports, they fail. This government continues to talk down the correlation.

This week, the coronial inquest into the deaths of two young toddlers is also underway. The Leader of the Opposition and I have met with Peter Jackson and we have heard his pain. It will stay with me and I am sure it will stay with the Leader of the Opposition too. We are now hearing claims that Child Safety staff were aware that the girls' mother bought urine online to get through drug tests and that ongoing reports were made but went unanswered. No doubt we will see more come to light this week.

For years now Peter has spoken vocally about the failings of the system. He will forever mourn Darcey-Helen and Chloe-Ann. He joins many before him who have cried out for this broken system to be given the attention that it needs yet his and other voices have been ignored. Instead, what do we hear? We hear from ministers who failed in their obligations. We see the failing system being passed from one minister to another. Three ministers in one year is disgraceful. That is how this government treats the children of this state. How is that keeping our communities safe? This government has to focus less on announcements and more on responsibility.

*(Time expired)*