



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Miles Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): What is it going to take for the Labor government to address the youth crime crisis gripping this state? In every part of the state this crisis is impacting Queenslanders at home, in their businesses and on the streets. How much more loss, how much more pain, how much more suffering until this government admits that Queensland is in the grip of a youth crime crisis? These are the laws Queenslanders want. The LNP have brought them; Labor must support them. There is no other option. Our priority is supporting victims and ensuring there are fewer in the future; Labor's is running from its record.

I have spoken to the family of Vyleen White and given them a commitment that we will see this through, and their comments ring so true at a time of great trauma. If we cannot feel safe walking around, there is a problem. There should not have to be a death to bring action. It is shutting the gate after the horse has bolted. This morning there is too little, too late. It is not the first tragedy in this state. I have spoken to the family members of many victims in this state. Thousands of other Queenslanders have also had their lives ripped apart by youth crime. It happens every day—it happens to the vehicle they need to make a living; the conversation they have to have with a loved one, a young child, when they are broken into. There have never been more victims in this state.

Just before I came into this House I received a message from a young business owner called Mark. Mark runs Tribe Coffee Co., which is a great business on the north side frequented by the member for Clayfield and many of our emergency services. I met Mark about a year ago when one of his staff was held up at gunpoint. Overnight that business was broken into again. I asked Mark, 'What is the impact for you, mate?' He said, 'There's \$1,900 to replace a freezer and there's about \$400 to replace stock, but in a few weeks time my insurance premium is up for renewal.'

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Sorry to interrupt, member for Broadwater, but can you confirm that the matter you are referring to is not before the courts?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is not, Mr Deputy Speaker. In a few weeks time he gets his insurance renewal, and that is where the long-term sting in the tail will be. Mark wants to know what it is going to take for this government to embark on real action. Instead, they are running from their record—a record where the Attorney-General, who has been in the same seat for nearly a decade, says 'a penalty that allows for persons to remain in the community is preferable' and 'evidence clearly shows that increasing the severity of punishment does not reduce offending, nor does it reduce reoffending'. The number of repeat offenders has gone from 10 per cent to 20 per cent, so I am not sure that rings true. Today the Premier spoke for three minutes and could not even defend the former premier's legacy for three seconds. That is the record they are running from. The Premier said there are more police in this state, despite the thin blue line getting a little thinner to the tune of 322 officers in the last 18 months. Despite a commitment to add more, police numbers have gone backwards.

The amendments tabled by the LNP will remove detention as a last resort and allow victims of crime and the media back into Childrens Court courtrooms. The Premier said they might investigate. They might consider it. They will ponder changes at an unknown time in the future. If the Labor government will not act to fix the youth crime crisis, we will. It starts with removing detention as a last resort to allow the judiciary to do their job. Today the Premier tried to blur the lines by talking about other forms of sentencing. Let me make this very clear: the LNP wants to remove detention as a last resort to repair the mess created by this government nearly nine years ago. The LNP wants to open the Childrens Court to allow families of victims and the media to see that justice is being done, to repair the mistakes those opposite created by watering down the laws nearly a decade ago. The rights of victims should be above the rights of offenders. What is it going to take to agree to these sensible solutions?

It is not just the youth crime crisis that is impacting this state; there is a health crisis and Queensland is ground zero. Our priority is releasing data in real time. Labor's priority is changing the narrative and hiding the data. We have the right priorities for Queensland's future when it comes to repairing the health system those opposite have starved through a lack of resources, a lack of transparency, a lack of putting doctors and nurses back in charge. Labor's priority is crafting the narrative. On 25 May the minister told parliament, 'There are no plans to change how these measures are reported.' RTI disclosures show that historical graphs have been amended to wipe information prior to 2020. Ministerial staff were also pushing the department to use built beds instead of operational beds. The RTI also shows there are weekly meetings about data which involve the minister and her staff. Why is this information kept from Queenslanders?

On Saturday afternoon the minister finally released the overdue December quarter figures. Today the Premier said it is getting better. Not only is it not getting better; it is getting worse at a rate of knots. Ambulance ramping in Queensland is at 43 per cent. That is the worst in the nation. It is nearly double what it is in New South Wales, it is 10 per cent more than WA and Victoria, and it is the highest figure ever recorded in a December quarter. For the first time ever the elective surgery waiting list has surged past 60,000, and in a moment the shadow health minister is going to show what that means to Queenslanders. For the first time the specialist waitlist has gone past 290,000 patients, and in a moment the shadow health minister is going to explain what that means to Queensland. On Sunday Metro South went on bypass—a practice this government said does not happen anymore and a practice that Queenslanders would never have known occurred unless a brave paramedic sent us a screenshot of a message. To hear paramedics talk about a system at breaking point, the lid being lifted, ready to blow up, tells you the stress and strain our frontline staff are facing under a very bad government.

It is not just Queensland Health that is in crisis; there is a cost-of-living crisis, and Queensland is ground zero in that. Our focus is on the things that we control as a parliament, the things that this place can do something about. Let's start with electricity. Queensland had the biggest rise in electricity prices in the nation at 19.9 per cent—double that of Victoria and New South Wales, triple one of those entities. There was one state where the price went backwards—Western Australia. The only power Labor is interested in is clinging to the kind that keeps them in office.

The video we have seen released after question time today raises more questions than it answers. In a minute, the shadow minister for energy is going to pose some of those questions. The video shows what happened but it does not say why it happened. Power plants do not just blow up if they are well maintained, and clearly this one was not. No-one, after nearly a thousand days, is prepared to step up and answer questions and take responsibility.

There is a crisis in health, there is a crisis in cost of living, there is a crisis in housing and there is a crisis in youth crime. After almost 10 years of this government, have things gotten better or worse when it comes to the youth crime crisis, the housing crisis or the health crisis? Are things better or worse for Queenslanders than a decade ago when it comes to their cost of living? Undeniably, on every one of those metrics, Queenslanders have had enough, and it does not have to be this way. Queenslanders need to know that it does not have to always be like this. You do not have to live in fear in your home, you do not have to live in fear as to whether or not a brave paramedic will turn up in your hour of need, and you do not have to live in fear as to whether or not you can pay your bills. There is a better way, and the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future.