




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Miles Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Today we witnessed the Premier attempting to distance himself from the failures of the government he has been front and centre of for more than nine years. Today the Premier admitted he has deserted the field, but he could not answer when and he could not answer why. Today Queenslanders were given a myriad of reasons why they deserve better than this government. In one hour during question time Queenslanders were given a myriad of reasons why this government is rotting before their eyes. I want to begin my contribution with health, because based on the words of the Premier and the health minister it is clear they have given up on healing the Queensland Health crisis.

The Premier made the same excuses and again refused to acknowledge that things have got worse year on year. Year after year this government has failed on every major metric. There was a damning report into the death of Wayne Irving. Rather than offer sympathy and sorrow, the Premier chose apathy and excuses. During one of the most devastating times of their lives when the family needed leadership, the leader of this state chose to cherry-pick elements of the report. The report has highlighted how deep the Queensland Health crisis is and the pressure our hardworking staff are under. That report states—

The lack of dedicated nursing and medical oversight of patients on the ramp increases the reliance on QAS for patient monitoring and escalation of concerns. The review team was informed that a dedicated nurse on the QAS ramp is allocated when resources allow; however, this is not a funded or legislative position and therefore it is not always available.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. The House will come to order. Leader of the Opposition, you have the call.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Every time there is a tragedy in Queensland Health we hear the same excuses. The only thing that changes is which minister will be delivering the excuse. It has been nine years and things have got worse. Despite repeated excuses, things have got worse in the last year. There is a grieving family that does not need excuses; they need leadership. That is what we are going to give this family. We are going to make sure that the death of this wonderful family man, who was embedded in his community, is not going to be in vain. The Premier attempted to justify the death based on elements of the report.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as you would know, our hardworking doctors and nurses do their best and they are heroes. Every day deaths occur in hospitals, but we would not be discussing this death if Mr Irving had not died on the ramp. That is the point. That is the bit the government refuses to listen to. That is how badly broken the system is: he died on a ramp. Today in a childish display the health minister tried to say, 'The shadow minister should calculate it.' The minister changed the metrics because she did not have the ticker to release that it was the worst year on record for ambulance lost

time. There were 162,000 lost hours in 2023. Do members want to know what that included? That included the three hours when Wayne Irving lost his life. He was one of those involved in those 162,000 hours. He died alone and he died in pain. His death is not going to be in vain.

The government has to acknowledge what is in the report. It makes sobering reading for anyone who believes that government should and must do better. This side of the House believes that family deserves so much better. At that hospital, ambulance ramping is 60 per cent. You have a nearly two in three chance of being ramped. On the night Wayne Irving died there were people who waited seven hours. That report makes really sobering reading for anyone. I can only imagine what it does to that family.

We have also seen the consequences of this rotting government when it comes to education. Today parents from Rochedale State School called out the fact they have not been listened to. Today I spoke with one parent whose child is in a classroom where there are concerns about asbestos and another parent whose child is not in the classroom. Both of them feel a sense of profound anxiety for their decisions: one because they made the decision to send their child into that classroom as the child is not coping with what is going on at the school; the other because they made the decision that their child is not going to be educated today because they do not want to put them in that classroom. Those parents do not believe they have been listened to. Today the shadow education minister took up the fight on their behalf. I am not convinced the answers were forthcoming, nor were they straight. It is up to the education minister to explain whether or not those parents have been listened to, whether or not the classroom is safe for the kids to go into and whether or not the children, teachers, cleaners, parents and students have been treated with the respect they deserve.

So it was in relation to tourism when a local member asked a question on behalf of the growers in his community who produce some of the best wines in the country. Instead of a straight answer such as, 'Thank you, member, I will have a look at that because that is a really important issue,' they got some childish rant about the fact he has not been on a drinking expedition on a train. That is the level the government has reached in this state.

In relation to energy, the shadow minister simply asked how it could be that there is no correlation between the capital and the cost of payback. Either the Premier does not understand the most basic economics or he is just running a cover-up job because they know they do not have a cost, a delivery time frame or what it means to consumers because of a thought bubble when it comes to energy policy.

Finally, on youth crime the Premier said he deserted the field but then said he was referring to deserting the political field. We have heard a lot about the faceless men of the Labor Party, but when that comment was made there were a lot of faceless people on the backbench because heads went down. There was not one set of eyeballs looking up because they know in their hearts that they have a leader who is not up to it. He can barely admit there is a youth crime crisis. He cannot admit that a government he has been front and centre of created the youth crime crisis nine years ago. Today, 138 days after the government said they would put a victim on the Sentencing Advisory Council, the government could not even put their hand up and say, 'Sorry, that was an announcement; we did not follow through.' No, we had to get a childish response about a past decade.

This is a government rotting before the eyes of Queenslanders. This is a government that cannot be trusted for anything they say because, right now, they will do and say absolutely anything to cling to power. They know that they have created a health crisis, a youth crime crisis, a housing crisis and a cost-of-living crisis that Queensland is ground zero for. The LNP has put forward solutions for every one of those crises. When it comes to the youth crime crisis, if the government changes in October then by the end of the year the Making Queensland Safer Laws will be enacted and at the centre will be the removal of detention as a last resort, which is a policy the government has flipped back and forth on based on the political polling of the day. This is a bad government. This is a third-term government. If Queenslanders give us their trust, they can show Labor the door in '24.