




Speech By
David Crisafulli

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): The Miles government has given up—given up on fixing the Queensland health crisis, given up on being honest with Queensland patients and given up on compassion. In the last 24 hours we have learnt another Queenslanders lost his life on the ambulance ramp. How did we find out about that? It was not from data, not from information shared by the health minister but from a news report. The response we saw today was insincere, it completely lacked compassion and, quite frankly, it was devoid of any action that Queenslanders would want to look to and expect to see from a government—a government that should be keeping Queenslanders safe but are not.

Instead of prioritising the patient, the government quibbled about whether the patient was inside or outside the ambulance while ramped. Instead of acknowledging the worst ramping in history and coming up with a plan to fix it, this government came up with a different way of measuring the problem. Let that sink in. Rather than fixing the problem to protect patients, this government decided to fix the figures to protect itself. What we have seen today is a focus on spin, on fixing the narrative and not fixing ambulance ramping. That is the culture of this government—a government that has presided over a deteriorating health system for nearly a decade and chooses to try to change the narrative and change what Queensland patients are living through.

We acknowledge the pain that the family of the 78-year-old man is going through. We acknowledge the staff working in that hospital and we thank them for what they do. We thank them for what they do every day, trying their best under a broken system. We thank them for their dedication to their cause and the calling that is helping people in our hospitals.

It was following a death in the same week that the health minister tried to tell the media that ramping was getting better. It was on a weekend, when Queenslanders' eyes were on other things, when the minister released the quarterly figure of 45.5 per cent ambulance ramping, the worst ever recorded. After releasing the quarterly figures, the minister attempted to tell the media that, in fact, things were getting better because one of the months was better—while releasing quarterly figures. That is the problem with this minister and this government: a culture of cover-ups, a culture of a lack of transparency and accountability and, indeed, a culture of failure. Shortly the shadow health minister will go through those figures and explain why every Queenslanders deserves so much better than they are getting.

If government changes in October the LNP will act to heal the Queensland health crisis—better resources, better triaging, putting doctors and nurses back in charge and sharing data in real time. Within 100 days of an LNP government winning election in October Queenslanders will see in real time what is happening in their hospitals. That is a way to make sure that accountability will matter again: the eyes of 5½ million Queenslanders will hold the minister accountable for the targets that are set.

This government is failing when it comes to frontline service delivery—it is failing to keep police on the front line with the right laws to drive down crime, to keep infrastructure rolling out with the right planning laws to fix the housing crisis, to keep our power plants online to drive down power prices and to fix the cost-of-living crisis. Shortly the shadow minister for cost of living and energy will explain a little more about the missing Brady report.

On youth crime, we have heard the spin for that one, too. Let's run through a calendar of a week in Queensland under this government. On Sunday a woman was allegedly carjacked at knifepoint in Townsville. On Monday Queenslanders watched an interview with Lee Lovell in which he called out the laws that let down his wife, Emma. On Tuesday we read the victim impact statement from the Kefus and we learnt that youth crime does not just impact families when it happens; it has an ongoing impact on their psyche forever. On Wednesday I learnt of Burleigh businesses that are at breaking point because of a generation of untouchables running riot through their beautiful little village and the action they are trying to take because they know of the situation with weaker laws and fewer police. On Thursday police numbers—when a government tried to somehow again tell Queenslanders that something is happening with police numbers that quite frankly is not. The reason for that is, despite a pipeline of recruits, our brave police—those experienced officers—are leaving in droves and the numbers show that. At the last election this government promised 1,450 extra police—full-time-equivalent, frontline officers—and on the latest figures that number has gone backwards. To use the minister's term, that would be a Labor cut of over 1,500.

The LNP commits to releasing the workforce data twice a year every year and that is the way that Queenslanders working in our Public Service can know that they have a government that values what they do and is prepared to be held accountable for the numbers on the front line delivering those services. The reports from Townsville when it comes to the youth crime crisis show a case of 'here we go again'. The residents of that city are again wondering at what stage will they get a government that gives them the laws they need, because this government said they threw everything at it and yet the problem keeps getting worse. The Making Queensland Safer Laws will remove detention as a last resort and will put the rights of the victims ahead of the rights of offenders. If the government changes in October, the Making Queensland Safer Laws will be laws and they will be laws this year. It will not be a rewrite, a rejig or a rehash; it will be a removal of detention as a last resort, and this government cannot admit that its decision nine years ago created the Queensland youth crime crisis.

I know fire ants might not be something that captures the attention of all Queenslanders all of the time, but those who have been impacted by them know this has been another failure of frontline service delivery when it comes to this government. They have been in power so long their list of broken promises makes sober reading, and today we learnt more about the botched fire ant eradication program. Under Labor we are seeing fire ant infestation, not fire ant eradication. Fire ants could end up costing the Gold Coast \$180 million per year according to a council briefing. A great city built on an amazing tourism reputation will potentially be at risk because of a government that cannot do what it said it was going to do. I have had fire ants in my own electorate—in parks, in shopping centres—because of a government that said it was going to do something and has not done so.

The fire ant treatment area has ballooned in South-East Queensland under Labor's watch with more communities now at risk from this pest which poses a serious risk to agriculture and Queensland's environment. They are west of Toowoomba and south of the border, areas that fire ants have never been before. We know the increased infestation is a direct result of complete mismanagement by this government and they have allowed the pest to run rampant across Queensland.

In 2001 a milestone set by the Ministerial Council for the National Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program was for a functioning information system to collect and report reliable and consistent performance data. Fast forward over 20 years and still that has not occurred. Wherever you look in Queensland Queenslanders are saying they deserve better. When they turn up to a hospital and see the pressure our valued staff are under and ambulances ramped they deserve better; when we hear about young mothers being held up at knifepoint in their car because of weaker laws and fewer police we know they deserve better; when we hear of people living in tents, when we hear of people unable to dream of owning a home because of a lack of infrastructure and proper planning we know Queenslanders deserve better. The only way this will change is if the government changes in October. In a few short months Queenslanders have the chance to show Labor the door in 2024