




Speech By
Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Child Protection

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.32 pm): The Crisafulli government is committed to taking care of our state's most vulnerable children. We have announced a commission of inquiry into the child safety system, a system that was neglected for the past decade under the former Labor government—neglect that has caused trauma to a generation of children, as well as feeding the state's youth crime crisis by not placing enough supports to prevent children in care entering the youth justice system.

Sitting back and watching vulnerable children continue to languish is not acceptable to me and it is not acceptable to our government. The Crisafulli government will progress our election commitments under our Safer Children, Safer Communities plan while the commissioner independently investigates the child safety system.

We will do what those opposite refused to do a decade ago: we will implement a recommendation from the Carmody inquiry and deliver a SecureCare facility—a service for children who are a danger to themselves and to others. They will not be pseudo-detention centres; they will be facilities where young people with complex needs will have access to interventions and have services wrapped around them to deliver positive change to their lives. We will also deliver the professional foster carers program focused on children with complex needs, along with a \$1,500 boost to the yearly allowance for children in out-of-home care for education and extracurricular activities.

The Crisafulli government is committed to supporting our frontline child safety staff by increasing the workforce by 20 per cent by 2030 to deal with the increasing case load and demand on their time. We value their contribution. We will also introduce a 24-hour dual care supervision model for residential care and we are well underway with the staging of this commitment.

We will rein in the out-of-control billion dollar industry the former government created over a decade ago through sheer neglect. Those opposite created a market through individual placement services that has grown exponentially in reliance, and use that has blown out from \$82 million a decade ago to now \$766 million annually—and growing—facilitating private companies to profit. This form of placement was created to be a temporary solution as children transition to either foster care, kinship care or family-based care. A revolving door of ministers saw children bounced around the system—some exceeding 35 placements in that part of the system in their lifetime—shopped between providers and seen as nothing other than dollar signs by companies and for-profit operators ready to take advantage of our state's most vulnerable.

This is about doing what is right in the interests of our state's most vulnerable children. We will deliver support and a system for safer children and a safer community.