




Speech By
Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Labor Government, Disability Services

 **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) (9.49 am): As the minister responsible for six portfolios across the human services sector, every single day it is my role to ensure the state's most vulnerable are taken care of, that they are heard, and that we are doing all we can to support them. Whether it is ensuring that we are fixing the broken child safety system inherited from those opposite or it is bringing into this House new legislation to protect victim-survivors of domestic and family violence or whether it is helping Queenslanders get back on their feet after a weather event, we are committed to our state's most vulnerable.

When I see thousands of Queenslanders and their families being taken advantage of, children's lives upended, anxiety being expressed by carers and parents because, at a federal level, Canberra are only seeing the dollar signs on a spreadsheet, as a state we will not be silent. If we allow the Commonwealth government to make changes to the NDIS unchecked, as they are trying to, our state and our children will be worse off. The Crisafulli government will not allow Queenslanders to be short-changed by the federal government on this crucial funding. This goes right back to when federal health minister Mark Butler stood up at a Press Club conference and announced Thriving Kids without any consultation of states, including those of his own party. They are trying to strongarm states and territories, sideline disability ministers and silence the advocates of those from the disability sector in the interests particularly of children when it comes to foundational supports.

Thriving Kids will shift children with mild disabilities, including children with mild autism, off the NDIS. There has been no detail and no consultation, leaving children and families in limbo. What the federal government is proposing is not aligned with Queenslanders and their needs. We have been serious about our negotiation in good faith with the federal government, and we have serious reservations about their modelling and the gaps that will exist for people with disabilities.

At the time the federal government made the Thriving Kids announcement, demanding a substantial contribution by states and territories, disability ministers were blindsided, as were states, and while I can imagine that perhaps being a federal minister down in Canberra is time-consuming, and perhaps no minister or staffer had time to pick up the phone to anyone across the state jurisdictions to advise they were off-loading their responsibilities of the NDIS, what I cannot imagine, and what I will not accept, is a plan that is presented to Australians who are living with disability that short-changes them and leaves them vulnerable with system gaps. We cannot in good conscience accept any reality where disability ministers are taken out of a conversation of reform to the NDIS so that the Commonwealth can tie hospital funding to disability supports and leave disability participants out in the cold. The NDIS is too important for changes to be made that affect thousands of Queenslanders and their families without their best interests at heart, and we continue to negotiate in good faith.

It is a national problem requiring a national solution and that is why my interstate colleagues and I united in saying no to the Prime Minister's plan to short-change our health systems and also leave those with disabilities vulnerable. Despite all of this, I recently met with federal and state disability ministers and we were eager to negotiate, but to my disappointment the meeting provided little clarity around foundational supports or, in fact, Thriving Kids. We are no better off in understanding what this structure looks like. I would go so far as to say that the concerns raised were completely disregarded by the federal government, and that is not acceptable to the Crisafulli government nor to Queenslanders.

I want to be clear to Queenslanders who live with a disability: we will continue to support and advocate on your behalf, but we want to make sure our state gets its fair share. I have full confidence in the Minister for Health in negotiating our state's best deal when it comes to health services and, as disability services minister, together we will do all we can to ensure that the federal government does not short-change those with disabilities.