



Speech By  
**Hon. Amanda Stoker**

**MEMBER FOR OODGEROO**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 February 2026

**MOTION: MINISTER FOR FAMILIES, SENIORS AND DISABILITY SERVICES  
AND MINISTER FOR CHILD SAFETY AND THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC  
AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.57 pm): The member for Pine Rivers wants to talk about things being well done. After that contribution, I am bound to say that things over there are thoroughly cooked. I rise to speak on this motion a little shocked because it is either delusion or maybe they are losing touch with reality when those opposite start throwing stones on the issue of child safety. I guess there is another option. Maybe a bit like Dory in *Finding Nemo*, they have been plagued by amnesia. I want to give a charitable potential interpretation. If they are struggling to remember, let me help.

Their record is not good. Perhaps that is why the last Labor government went through five child safety ministers. While this government deals with the youth crime revolving door that Labor left behind, perhaps we should grant them just a little bit of grace. After all, they were busy swirling around in their own revolving door of child safety ministers.

Let us give that record a bit of a look. Let us look at the investigation timelines for child safety during the period of the last government. A census in 2024 revealed there were critical delays during their period in government. Only 19 per cent of five-day and 18.6 per cent of 10-day investigations were even being commenced within the required timeframes. There was a surge in the number of children in residential care during that decade of decline. They turned it into a quite repugnant multibillion dollar industry.

Sadly, it became what the Queensland Child and Family Commission called 'a pipeline to youth crime'. Instead of having 650 people in it, as it did in 2015, by late 2024 there were 2,212 children in residential care—an explosion. Some 683 of those children were under 12, representing a 381 per cent increase since 2015. There is no way to spin, slice or dice this that is not an absolutely abhorrent outcome for the most vulnerable kids in this state.

Missing children is a big part of their record, too. An audit that was arranged after Labor left office found that over 770 children were what they call self-placing, meaning they were missing or absent from their assigned care, with some found to be homeless or having been brought in to criminal networks. It is a really sad indictment on what was left behind. Adoption rates plummeted—down 80 per cent on the levels in place in the nineties, denying children stable, loving and permanent homes. Budget black holes were left behind. There was a \$500 million shortfall in residential care funding and the failure to fund 91 frontline positions past Christmas 2024. What was the grand plan here? Was it just, 'Oh, we will deal with that sometime in the future. Let's get through the election and deal with it on the other side'? They literally had no plan for the ongoing paying of the pay cheques of the hardworking staff in Child Safety who do such difficult work. It is an extraordinary thing!

The IT failures over which they presided should not be forgotten. The \$183 million Unify IT system was commissioned under Labor then descoped under Labor, with its functionality gutted in 2023 and early 2024. They are trying to blame this government for the messes made by that descoping, yet

everybody knows that Labor are so unreliable when it comes to IT. I remind those listening about the Queensland Health payroll scandal—a \$6 million budget that went to \$1.25 billion, with 78,000 health workers not paid. What about Smart Ticketing as an IT project? It was almost a decade late, with a \$60 million blowout. An IT fail for SPER—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to relevance. The member's contribution is well outside the scope of the original motion or the amendment, and I would ask you to remind her of her obligations.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The point of order is on relevance. I was a little distracted. Member for Oodgeroo, you know what the motion is about. It is in front of you.

**Mrs STOKER:** Thank you, Speaker. The good news is that I have plenty more to share in my limited time. The *In plain sight* report showed that the failure of Labor to implement the Reportable Conduct Scheme left children unprotected for nearly a decade—real harm done to children as this former Labor government lags at the bottom of the class, failing to implement. This is not funny. At last we have a child safety minister who is prepared to do the hard work to keep kids safe.

*(Time expired)*