



Speech By
Ariana Doolan

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 27 August 2025


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Education, Arts and Communities Committee

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.36 pm): I rise to speak on the estimates process, which has shone a spotlight on the Crisafulli government's strong and practical initiatives to support young people, families and communities not just in Pumicestone but right across Queensland. As someone who has experienced the impacts of bullying firsthand, who has seen domestic violence tear families apart and who knows the cost when communities are left behind by unfunded programs, I do not take lightly the privilege of serving on the Education, Arts and Communities Committee. With that privilege comes the duty to hold our own government accountable and to ensure the laws we pass reflect community expectations and deliver real outcomes for all Queenslanders.

Over the past 10 months this government has been focused on delivery. One of the most pressing issues we face is the bullying crisis in Queensland schools. That is why I asked the education and arts minister how this government is tackling it. He confirmed that we are investing \$33 million in five new fully funded initiatives: establishing rapid support squads in bullying hotspots; creating a new Anti-Bullying Stakeholder Reference Group to co-design future campaigns; delivering more chaplains and student wellbeing staff in hundreds of schools; launching a dedicated crisis hotline for parents and carers; and developing updated professional development resources for teachers and teacher aides and support staff. This is targeted, practical action that will make schools safer.

I also asked about behavioural changes in schools. My mum has been head of department of behaviour at multiple schools in Moreton Bay, and she would come home exhausted from her daily struggle to organise teacher aides and provide her staff with the support they desperately needed. That is why I am proud that our government has now delivered a permanent \$44 million Behaviour Boost, giving teachers more support in the classroom, restoring order and letting them get back to what they do best: teaching. Estimates also revealed the shocking extent of Labor's neglect. They left Queensland schools with a \$441 million backlog in maintenance and repairs after a decade of decline, with kids and teachers left to pay the price.

This Crisafulli government is focused on delivering what we said we would do—as opposed to those opposite, who talk the talk but could not walk the walk. For example, the former government and the former member promised a new tuckshop for Banksia Beach State School. They had four years to

deliver it, but the community was kept waiting. I am proud to be part of a government that delivers on its promise. That is why Banksia Beach State School will get a new tuckshop, just like we said they would.

The time for talk is over; the time for delivery is now. What we have achieved in 10 months is more than the Labor government could do in 10 years. We are fixing Labor's mess. Our budget has funded over \$206 million in renewals and more than \$571 million in maintenance. Right here in the Pumicestone electorate I am proud that more than \$122,000 has been allocated across five local schools for essential maintenance.

It will not all be fixed in a year but, as the minister said, we are up for the job and we know that more needs to be done. The minister also outlined these investments: \$12.7 million to strengthen the regulatory authority in early childhood; \$12.3 million to expand the Queensland Virtual Academy; and \$32.6 million to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes. This is what delivering for Queenslanders looks like in our education sector.

Domestic and family violence is one of the most heartbreaking issues in my electorate. I asked the Minister for Families what services are being funded locally to support victims. I was reassured to hear that CADA, the Centre Against Domestic Abuse, has received more than \$6.3 million to deliver frontline services and that across the Moreton Bay region our government is investing more than \$10.3 million to respond to domestic and family violence. That investment is, sadly, needed and it demonstrates our unwavering commitment: protecting victims, supporting frontline workers and holding perpetrators to account.

This is what good governments look like: a budget that reflects community expectations and a government that keeps Queenslanders safe—safe from bullies, safe from domestic violence and safe from the consequences of Labor's neglect. Queenslanders voted for a government that has respect for their money. Our revitalised and reformed estimates process gives Queenslanders insight into how we are funding our promises—a foreign concept to those opposite. This is what delivering real cost-of-living relief looks like. Families sending their kids to school can now access \$100 through our Back to School Boost, delivering real cost-of-living relief for families. I thank the Speaker, the Clerk, the committee secretariat and my colleagues for their support throughout this estimates process.