




Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; EDUCATION,  
ARTS AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (8.52 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Whilst I had the great pleasure of working as a principal under Minister Langbroek when he was formerly the minister for education, I remind him that I will determine when I am embarrassed and when I am not. I certainly was not embarrassed by the member for Algeester and the work that she did during estimates.

The 2025 budget estimates process was a real opportunity for the Crisafulli LNP government to show it could deliver on its promises—promises of reform and promises of a fresh start for Queensland. What we witnessed instead was a government that struggled to meet even the most basic expectations of openness, transparency and accountability.

Across every portfolio examined during estimates, the pattern was clear. This government continues to choose secrecy over transparency and political hubris over proper scrutiny. Instead of listening to the experts and being open with Queenslanders, the government has shown an unwillingness to be transparent about its decisions and its priorities. We can see this clearly in the government's approach to child safety.

Despite promising to reform and strengthen the system, the 2025-26 budget relies heavily on the 17-month commission of inquiry to do the work of the government—work that the government should be doing now. Stakeholders have been consistent in raising their concerns: what is being done to protect vulnerable children in Queensland today while the inquiry is underway?

What we heard during estimates was a lack of immediate action. The minister's decision to dismiss the residential care road map in her opening statement sent a strong message to the sector. The LNP are going to ignore the significant consultation and sector engagement that went into shaping that road map. It also showed an unwillingness to build on work already done in favour of political pointscoring and delaying recommendations that could be implemented right away. It should be noted that the director-general did refer to the road map during estimates, despite the fact that the minister had said she had scrapped it.

Foster and kinship carers also received little recognition in the budget. In January 2025 their annual allowance increased by just 1.8 per cent, amounting to only \$5.90 per week. These carers were already stretched, and many were hoping for meaningful support following that minimal increase. However, the budget delivered no additional funding for allowances, despite the minister emphasising that placing children in family-based care is the government's priority. This contradiction highlights a lack of genuine investment in the people who provide safe, stable homes for children in care.

On cost-of-living pressures, the budget also falls short. The Crisafulli LNP government has failed to continue to support Queenslanders with cost of living. The \$1,000 energy rebates are gone and car rego discounts are gone—important cost-of-living support provided by Labor gone under the LNP. Cost of living continues to be a critical challenge for Queenslanders. We know there is significant strain on emergency relief support, which provides food or fuel vouchers and essential items such as medications

and helps to cover utility bills for those most in need. It is disappointing that there was no uplift in this budget to the funding, given the increasing demand and advocacy from key stakeholders. Instead, the government scraped together internal funds. We can see where their priorities lie. Frankly, vulnerable Queenslanders deserve better.

The government's approach to the prevention of domestic and family violence also raises significant concerns. In estimates it was raised that the LNP have abolished the Independent Implementation Supervisor—a key recommendation of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Further, the government failed to commit to publish regular reports on the progress of the taskforce—no transparency, no accountability. The LNP breaks yet more promises to Queenslanders.

As reported in the latest biannual report from the now scrapped Independent Implementation Supervisor, a number of recommendations from the taskforce and the commission of inquiry into police responses to DFV are outstanding or yet to be implemented. We are concerned about the progress of these recommendations by the LNP government. These recommendations were the result of close and considered consultation with the DVF sector, and I will have more to say about that during the second reading debate of the bill when it comes before the House. Ultimately, the LNP's first budget is a budget of broken promises and vulnerable Queenslanders deserve so much better.