



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.18 pm): I rise to speak about the horrifying mess that is the rollout of Child Safety's Unify IT system under this Crisafulli LNP government. Cash before kids—that is what this government has prioritised. That was the admission made by the minister's very own director-general. What it tells us is that, apparently, the Crisafulli government can put a price on the value of protecting 16,000 at-risk children in this state. It seems they thought that price was too high.

While they were scanning the spreadsheets to find savings at the cost of safeguarding children, there is something else that does not quite add up. The child safety minister has consistently said that her director-general was not aware of these issues—she said it again yesterday—and that that is how she was so unaware of such a critical failing in her own department under her leadership, but that is simply not true. The Together union told the director-general in a meeting in May, and two weeks ago the minister's director-general reportedly said—

... at the point that we went ... live, there were some concerns related to data and functionality—

Despite the protestations, the question remains: exactly when did the minister really learn about these issues? What really worries us to our core is that we still do not know the depth of the impact of the LNP's failure. How many critical incident reports have been missed? How many at-risk children are facing intake delays? What absolutely agonises me and members on this side of the House is: has something horrible happened to a child? Is that why the minister has gone public all of a sudden? We got no answers yesterday when we asked her whether any children had been hurt.

Queenslanders will remember that this Premier promised his ministers would be held to account, but clearly they are not. After her director-general fronted the media to offer a mea culpa and fall on the proverbial sword, the minister went off to enjoy her holidays. This week the minister had to front up to parliament and, lo and behold, it is another public servant's turn to face the heat—this time the CIO. The minister can try to insulate herself from any blame by accusing public servants, sacking public servants or telling us it was the public servant's fault, but she let it slip yesterday. When asked why the Crisafulli government put dollars before the lives of the state's most vulnerable children, the minister told us that she actually endorsed the decision the director-general made to go live, despite concerns of functionality, because of that pesky worry about budget constraints within the LNP. Queenslanders deserve better. There needs to be an independent investigation into this because saving dollars is never more important than the safety of 16,000 vulnerable children.