



Speech By  
**Hon. David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.40 am): Our government is committed to restoring safety in our communities. Queenslanders should feel safe in their homes; they should be safe in their communities. That responsibility extends to our most vulnerable Queenslanders, our children. Our child safety system is meant to protect kids. Under Labor our child safety system was neglected. The needs of young people with traumatic and complex backgrounds were not met. Frontline staff were not properly supported and resourced. Some for-profit organisation have been allowed to wield all the power in a billion-dollar industry. Kids have been let down. Hardworking, caring people who work in this industry have been let down.

Across the last six months we have uncovered long-term, systemic failures in child safety. As part of our 100-day plan we have already opened an inquiry into Labor's failures of the blue card child protection system, but we have only scratched the surface. That is why our government is announcing a commission of inquiry into the child safety system. It is an historic step, but one that we owe to these vulnerable children. We must have this commission of inquiry if we are serious about the safety of Queensland children and our communities. Paul Anastassiou KC, a former Federal Court judge, will lead the inquiry and make recommendations to reshape and repair our state's child safety system. It will also examine the foster and kinship carer system, as well as adoption practices in Queensland.

The *Children in care census 2024* shows the depths of this devastation. There were 650 children living in residential care in December 2015. By December 2024 that number had grown to 2,212, including 116 children aged five and under living in these homes. The census found that children who were entering the out-of-home care system had suffered significant trauma. Our government is determined to create generational change and reform the broken system.

This inquiry is as much about keeping the community safe as it is about giving kids hope. There is no coincidence that we have a youth crime crisis at the same time we have a broken child safety system. We are determined to take action on both. One third of the state's most serious young criminals are living in Queensland's out-of-home care system. Too many kids are falling into a life of crime while they are in out-of-home care. We need to break that cycle, stop kids turning to crime and get them on the right track. To do that it is critical we reform the state's broken child safety system. Our child safety system will never be perfect, but it can be so much better than what it is today. We will take the steps others have been afraid to take because it is the right thing to do.