




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Labor Government, Aged Care

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.37 am): Our government will always stand up for Queensland. Since being elected, we have advocated strongly for our state. It has allowed us to work well with the federal government to secure the best outcome for Queenslanders. We secured an 80-20 funding split for the Bruce Highway to deliver critical improvements and safety upgrades that have languished for decades. We reached agreement to secure the biggest funding boost for Queensland state schools and I enjoyed working personally with the Prime Minister on that. We have also called out the federal government's unfair distribution of GST revenue. Despite our strong population growth, Queensland is the only state where GST revenue has not kept pace with inflation. That is a cause that we will continue to champion. However, our fight for a fair share will continue.

A funding shortfall from the federal government has left Australians right across the country stranded in our hospitals. Patients have been left without suitable care and are languishing in hospital beds. These are people who need care but do not need it in an acute ward. Many of them are elderly people—some of our most vulnerable—and they deserve the dignity of the care that they require. They are stranded in hospitals when they should be given the dignity of care in dedicated facilities. This is putting our hospitals under pressure. As a result, there are currently over 1,100 long-stay patients stranded in Queensland alone. That is the equivalent of removing Queensland's largest hospital from service every single day.

Therefore, we have united with the other states to call on the federal government to rescue our stranded Australians. We are asking the Commonwealth to do what they are responsible for and we will do what we are responsible for. It is about health workers. It is about families. It is about patients. It is an issue that should worry every Australian. We have all had a loved one who has been in a situation like this and it is a national disgrace. The federal government needs to step up and take responsibility for aged-care and disability patients who are stranded in public hospitals.

Today, I make the offer to the Commonwealth to sit down with all states and work out a way through. I know the view of almost all premiers is that this is an issue too important for tribalism and partisan politics. Let's get in a room, let's leave our allegiances at the door and let's rescue these stranded Australians, once and for all.

Queenslanders—Australians—deserve better and we will continue the fight. I want to be clear: the state government accepts full responsibility for healing Queensland Labor's health crisis. We are addressing elective surgery backlogs and ambulance ramping, building beds that should have been delivered in the last decade and returning services where people need them. We are just asking Canberra to accept responsibility for the things that they control—that is, aged-care and disability services. While Queenslanders understand that delivering these changes will take time, it is time for the federal government to take responsibility.