



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) (2.07 pm): For the past year, our government has been working hard to heal Labor's health crisis. A decade of underinvestment by Labor left our health services on life support. Our population—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for McConnel who once said making up stories about health patients who are suffering in the most tragic times—

Ms GRACE: I never said a word. I take offence and I ask for it to be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. Our population is growing and aging and our health system must keep up after a decade of decline. We have delivered the biggest drop to the elective surgery waitlist in a decade but there is more to do. Right now, there are over 1,100 Queenslanders stranded in hospitals across the state. They need care but do not belong in a hospital bed. Instead, they need dedicated facilities like aged care.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the member for McConnel.

Ms Grace: You didn't say that in opposition.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the member for McConnel. As a state, it is our job to invest in our hospitals and our health services. We are doing our part to give health workers more support and resources to give Queenslanders the health services they need. We accept our responsibility to heal Queensland Labor's health crisis. Our government is delivering the biggest investment in health infrastructure in Queensland's history but aged care and disability services are the responsibility of the federal government and, without appropriate investment and more facilities, our most vulnerable are stranded in hospitals.

It is costing us much needed hospital beds. It is costing families peace of mind. It is costing vulnerable Australians their dignity. Queensland is one of the worst affected, but it is not a problem unique to Queensland; it is a challenge being faced by Australians in every part of the country. We cannot fix this problem on our own. This morning the leaders of every state and territory came together to discuss this issue. We are united in our bid to rescue these stranded Australians. We have agreed to take negotiations forward across the country. It is a national issue. It requires a national solution. The states and territories are uniting to rescue these stranded Australians. We need to ensure Queenslanders are getting the right care in the right place. We will keep working to heal Labor's health crisis and we will keep fighting to see Canberra play its part.