



Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance; Toowong Private Hospital

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.09 pm): I rise tonight to highlight an issue that has become all too familiar: the LNP's ongoing failure to connect with Queenslanders both young and old. Parliament should be a place for serious debate about our state's future, instead too often the LNP reduce it to shallow theatre and stunts that demean this chamber. Young people and students visit parliament to see leadership and democracy in action, but what we see from the LNP is disrespect, heckling and shouting. Rather than role models, members opposite offer only performance.

While young Queenslanders face real challenges—housing affordability, jobs, mental health—the LNP members focus their energy on petty politics. They should stop trawling through opposition MPs' social media to search for cheap attack lines. It is a distraction tactic and young people see straight through it. What they want are real solutions. Housing affordability has collapsed locking young people out of rentals and homeownership, youth employment sits above nine per cent, mental health services are stretched and the closure of the Toowong Private Hospital has only worsened the crisis.

The LNP government was urged to step in and purchase the Toowong Private Hospital. We should remember that the Palaszczuk government was asked to purchase the Gladstone Mater Hospital in 2021 and it did exactly that. The LNP has refused to sort out the problem at the Toowong Private Hospital and that failure of leadership has left workers without jobs and patients without care. This chamber should inspire respect and confidence in our young people. Instead, what they often see is juvenile behaviour from those opposite. If the LNP is serious about the next generation it should stop chasing likes and start delivering policies that give young Queenslanders real hope for the future.