

Speech By

Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 23 April 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget, Disability Services

Hon. AJ CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.12 am): Next month the federal government will hand down its budget and in doing so will walk away from its responsibility for people living with a disability. The same government that established the National Disability Insurance Scheme will introduce legislation, without consultation with states and territories nor peak sectors, that will ultimately change the course and direction of the lives of almost 160,000 Australians living with a disability. What does that mean for parents of children with autism in Queensland? It means if you have one-on-one occupational therapy or speech therapy then say goodbye to it because it will be gone under these cuts and these changes.

The Albanese government has allowed fraudsters, criminals and rorters to take over a system that existed for our most vulnerable. It sounds quite similar to the residential care system which the government inherited from those opposite—an unregulated, billion-dollar industry where fraudsters, rorters and those who made money and profited off our most vulnerable—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection from the youth justice minister who has had to deal with many children who have come out of the broken residential care system where we have seen those fraudsters investing in crypto, in gold, in million-dollar shareholder loans, all on the watch of those opposite. More than 50 per cent of children in residential care have one or more disability and this cut will go to the heart of the system that is already under enormous pressure after being broken by those opposite.

The Crisafulli government has made a commitment when setting targets, which those former child safety ministers opposite failed to do when they failed to seek funding because they wanted to line the pockets of the CFMEU instead of supporting vulnerable children, as we have heard in the commission of inquiry. I have given a direction to my department that it is unacceptable for children under five to live in residential care. I can assure Queenslanders that work is underway to remove those children from residential care. I have also made it clear that the number of children living in residential care as a whole is unacceptable.

Last week I was in Townsville with three LNP members to announce a new foster care pilot. The member for Hinchinbrook could not make it, but I know he was pleased to see our announcement for professional foster care and extra supports for those families, those carers, as well as the children who will be transitioning out of residential care into family-based care. I have expressed both to the stakeholders and my department—my frontline staff—that it is no longer acceptable that residential care is an option. First and foremost, the priority is to move children into family-based care. We have a plan underway to deliver that. We welcome the commission of inquiry's final report and will take it very seriously and consider in depth all of the recommendations to deliver safety for children and a safer community for Queenslanders.