



Speech By
Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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MOTION

Child Safety Commission of Inquiry

 **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) (6.37 pm): I do not know what to make of that contribution, but I would like to focus on those opposite. I will start with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who went for his job interview with his Right and Old Guard faction because he will never have the numbers to be the leader.

Mr Bleijie: He has been found in contempt.

Ms CAMM: Thank you. I will take that interjection from the Deputy Premier. He has been found in contempt so he is absolutely qualified to be the Leader of the Opposition. A former treasurer who presided over the cabinet CBRC process and a failed child safety system has the hide to come into this House and talk about failings. He should take a good hard look in the mirror, but we know how often he likes to look in the mirror! A former minister, the member for Nudgee, had to give evidence that her own government and her own treasurer would not let her make a CBRC submission to fund child safety—

Ms LINARD: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask that the comments be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence.

Ms CAMM: I withdraw. The fact that not one former child safety minister, including the member for Nudgee, had the gumption to stand in this House and even contribute to this debate says it all. Those opposite want to criticise the Crisafulli government's record, when we saved 91 frontline child safety officer jobs that the former treasurer was prepared to cut. Those opposite talk about a tough job. Try standing in a child safety service centre in Mount Isa in your first month and finding out that—

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those words and ask that the minister withdraw.

Ms CAMM: I withdraw. The facts are that the former government did not fund 91 frontline child safety officer positions where we have the greatest over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in this state.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, I will not caution you again.

Ms CAMM: I had to stand with frontline child safety officers in Mount Isa when those opposite were going to cut jobs. There were tears, anxiety and frustration from those frontline officers. I stand on my record and that of our government of saving the frontline jobs that those opposite were prepared to cut. What did we do? We made an election commitment, which we are delivering, to increase child safety officers by 20 per cent because I have heard time and time again from my frontline staff how their pleas were ignored by all those former ministers when they had case loads in excess of 30. They

come in here on their high horses yet not one of them has the gumption to speak. I feel sorry for the shadow minister. For all her passion for children as a former principal, she stands there a lone voice when former ministers will not even share with her the failings of their own work. What else did we do? I do not know about other ministers, but when I get updated on critical incidents I go and ask what happened, where the failing is and whose responsibility it is.

Mr Minnikin: You don't go to Splendour in the Grass!

Ms CAMM: I take that interjection. I do not run away to music festivals. What did I do? I gave an instruction to my department that children under five should no longer be in residential care. What did five former ministers do? They allowed more and more children to enter residential care. Not one of them in their tenure gave a policy direction to ensure that little people, children under five, our most vulnerable, should be placed in family-based care—not one of them. Not one of them made a policy decision to make sure children with complex disability needs should be placed in disability support services and care and specialised family-based care—not one of them. Not one of them ever came up with the professional foster care model and went out and worked with the sector to deploy and recruit specialist services to ensure that children with the most complex of needs have family-based care—not one of those five former ministers. What did they do? They begged their former treasurer for more money and what did he and his cabinet fail to do? They failed to fund a system for our most vulnerable. Shame on them that they stand before the media and pretend that they have a record that is not shameful.

(Time expired)