



Speech By
Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 25 August 2026

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; EDUCATION,
ARTS AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **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) (10.03 pm): I am very pleased to rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill and to the estimates for the Education, Arts and Communities Committee. I thank, firstly, the committee members for their time and effort and also the staff. A lot of work goes into estimates. I also place on record my thanks to my department and all of the staff who also do a lot of work in preparation for estimates.

We released the child safety data. We also released our government's response to *From pressure to purpose*, the commission of inquiry, and the damning findings that were uncovered by Paul Anastassiou KC, and we thank him for his service. We have not wasted a minute in getting to work.

In the budget we have allocated \$200 million towards the commission of inquiry responses. I am working alongside my ministerial colleagues as part of our cabinet subcommittee in the delivery of those recommendations, along with drawing from other ministers and departments to ensure we do all we can to repair the broken system we inherited by the former Labor government.

The day after estimates I was very pleased to visit and extend funding to the Brisbane Youth Service for the Safe Young Mums and Bubs program and speak with the CEO and hear the incredible stories of young mums in our child safety system where they can safely have their children. They have a great advocate in Pam, the CEO, and the staff. They do incredible work with intensive support with our young mums and bubs.

We were also able to share and update both the House and Queenslanders on our funding that we are delivering as part of frontline services to domestic and family violence despite the fearmongering by those opposite out in the community. There is an additional investment in \$40 million over four years to continue the embedded domestic and family violence practitioners in 49 police stations across Queensland, as well as \$10 million in new initiatives to embed 26 specialist mental health professionals—

A government member: Additional, extra.

Ms CAMM: Sorry, new, extra—with 20 women's health and wellbeing services across Queensland. I was pleased to make that announcement in my home town of Mackay.

There is also the response to the child safety commission of inquiry. We continue to provide a 20 per cent uplift to frontline staff, which was our government election commitment in child safety. They are dealing with extraordinary demand on the back of a housing crisis and a cost-of-living crisis in this state. There is more work to be done. I had also made the decision in the policy direction, which those opposite failed to do, which was to direct my department to ensure that children under five are not in residential care. I look forward to releasing that data and those results in the coming months. We are

making very good progress, particularly with the number of children and diverting children so they do not enter residential care for the first time, but that they enter out-of-home care with a loving family, a foster or a kinship carer.

They are ultimately some of the reforms we will be doing as part of our response to the commission of inquiry which will include legislative reforms to the Adoption Act. I look forward to the support of those opposite who I believe have said many times in this House that more work needs to be done with regard to repairing the system and ensuring children are placed in safe settings. Those safe settings are more permanent placements with loving families. For too long—for years and years—the default position was long-term guardianship to the chief executive. That stops because we want to make sure the best interests of the child are paramount and are centred. We know that family-based care delivers better outcomes.

I was also pleased to update the committee on this. Under the former Labor government we had a number of underfunded neighbourhood centre builds that were never going to be completed. Under the Crisafulli government we have nine fully funded, purpose-built neighbourhood centres for Rockhampton, Agnes Water, Aurukun, Caboolture, Emerald, Kowanyama, Labrador, Palm Island and Ripley because we are a government for all of Queensland, including regional Queensland.

There have been a lot of comments about disability support and I held a disability ministers advisory committee just last week. I hear the experience of those with lived experience and I stand with those in uncertainty. We will not shy away from advocating for those families and children until we get answers from the federal government.

(Time expired)