

Speech By

Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Child Protection

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) (2.28 pm): I was privileged to stand with the Attorney-General and the police minister today as the Attorney-General announced the introduction of the Queensland Protection Commission. I thank her for the way in which she has led this reform and the opportunity for our departments to work collaboratively together to break down silos and prepare and share information. It will only be strengthened through the establishment of this commission. For a decade Queensland's child safety system deteriorated under those opposite. As a parent, trusting someone with your child is difficult enough. To think that former ministers did not act on recommendations to expose predators in schools, kindies and sports clubs is nothing short of disgraceful.

The royal commission recommended a Reportable Conduct Scheme back in 2017. Over many years there was a failure to deliver. In stark contrast, the Crisafulli government fast-tracked its implementation by 12 months and we are already seeing why this reform is so important. Beyond Ashley Paul Griffith and the *In plain sight* report, it was also noted that within the first three weeks more than 200 notifications of reportable conduct were received and that information sharing under the scheme has contributed to the suspension of 15 blue cards. This is in addition to the almost 550 blue card exemption cards suspended after we strengthened Blue Card Services' power. Those reforms are being felt right across the community.

Now we are taking the next step in strengthening Queensland's child safeguarding framework. The Queensland Protection Commission will bring key safeguarding functions together under one roof. That includes Blue Card Services, the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Child Safe Standards and working with children and disability worker screening checks. This is all about building a more connected child protection framework so that information does not sit in silos and children do not fall through the cracks. It is also about ensuring that the system is designed to protect Queensland children and our most vulnerable and that we as a government work together. It forms part of our broader reforms and sits alongside strengthening the blue card system, delivering Daniel's Law and implementing the recommendations of the commission of inquiry. When it comes to children inside and outside of the child safety system, we want to ensure we have the strongest, most robust and safest system.

The commission of inquiry also uncovered: warning signs that were ignored; exploding residential care numbers; a reliance on residential care; a growing number of unlicensed providers; a lack of regulation and oversight; foster carers not being given the respect or support they deserved; and long-overdue child protection reforms that were left sitting on the shelf.

Along with the Queensland Protection Commission, it is my responsibility, together with the Attorney-General and all other members of government, to ensure we deliver on the recommendations of the commission of inquiry. That work is well underway. We do not have a minute to waste. Most

disturbing was the commission's finding that approximately 67 per cent of the reported incidents of sexual abuse of children in care involved children placed in residential care. We have commenced reform; it is underway. That reform will be delivered and implemented within the next six months.