



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2026

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Schools, Bus Services**

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.19 pm): No child left behind—unless they are trying to get on a school bus in Ipswich or Logan. This is what our local students have been encountering since the beginning of term 1. My office has been hit with a barrage of complaints from our local families about the state of local bus services since the beginning of this year. I want to read just a sample of what I have received from concerned parents. Jo writes—

Yesterday my daughter, a year 7 student in her second week at Park Ridge State High School, was told to disembark bus 6304 because it was 'too full' and the driver would not continue until students got off.

Last week she described bus 6304 as extremely overcrowded, with students standing in the aisle and even sitting on the front steps. Her description of being 'cramped in like sardines' raises obvious safety concerns.

Elizabeth writes—

I am a solo parent of four children. I have to work full time in the city to provide for my kids. Therefore I rely on the support from my community and school bus system to get my kids to and from school.

The overcrowding of these buses is disgusting and not safe at all. They are super anxious as some days they don't know if they'll even get on or off a bus ok.

Georgina, a year 11 Ipswich student, told me—

Students are left standing/sitting on the stairs, throughout the walkway, and next to the driver. On our route, in the afternoons, after picking up the high school group, sometimes bus drivers will drive completely past the primary school stop, where students are waiting.

These are the younger and more vulnerable students too. I have a couple of times rung up Translink services to report this. When they do get on the bus however, the students are often left to stand or have to pack in right where the driver is which creates many safety risks.

What is going on with planning for school bus services? How has the Crisafulli LNP government got it so wrong when it comes to understanding and accounting for the growth and capacity in two of the largest growth areas of South-East Queensland—Ipswich and Logan? Parents are understandably frustrated. The bus company is struggling to respond to concerns and the safety of children is being compromised on a daily basis. I wrote to the transport minister one month ago raising these significant and serious concerns from my community and requesting Translink urgently review all Ipswich and Logan school bus services. I have heard nothing from him. I thought the fact that media have reported on this issue twice might have provoked a response, but again crickets from the minister. Parents are understandably frustrated. They are concerned about their kids travelling long distances on these buses. Imagine your child just being left behind at a bus stop late in the afternoon, early into the evening. This is unacceptable. If this were happening on the Sunshine Coast I am sure he would act so why is the minister ignoring the hardworking families of Ipswich and Logan?