



The Honourable Tim Nicholls MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

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02 April 2025

Hon Pat Weir MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House



Dear Mr Speaker

I refer to comments made by Mr Mark Bailey MP, the Member for Miller in the Legislative Assembly on 01 April 2025. During the period allotted for Matters of Public Interest, the Member for Miller stated that under the Crisafulli LNP Government "*funding for the perinatal unit in Townsville, cut*".

I submit that in making this statement, the Member for Miller deliberately misled the House and has therefore committed a contempt of Parliament, in breach of Standing Order 266(2).

As you are aware, there are three elements to be proven to establish that a Member has committed the contempt of deliberately misleading the House:

1. The statement must have been misleading;
2. The Member making the statement must have known, at the time the statement was made, that it was incorrect; and
3. In making the statement, the Member intended to mislead the House.

I submit that the Member for Miller had evidence contrary to his allegations that under the Crisafulli LNP Government "*funding for the perinatal unit in Townsville, cut*" and deliberately chose to mislead the House. My evidence to support this claim is outlined below.

The statement must have been misleading

The Member for Miller stated that under the Crisafulli LNP Government "*funding for the perinatal unit in Townsville, cut*". Prior to the Member for Miller making this comment, on 14 February 2025, the Crisafulli Government released a media statement (attached) that confirmed:

The Crisafulli Government will deliver 30 perinatal mental health beds, including 8 in Townsville, as part of a boost to perinatal mental health services across the State.

As the existing and planned perinatal mental health beds has clearly not reduced, the Member for Miller's allegation is factually incorrect.

Queensland Legislative Assembly
Number: 5825489
20 MAY 2025
MP: Hon Bailey
Clerk's Signature: _____

The Member making the statement must have known, at the time the statement was made, that it was incorrect

As stated above, evidence of the Crisafulli Government's commitment to deliver the 30 perinatal mental health beds, including 8 in Townsville had been published on the ministerial media statements website prior to when the Member for Miller rose to speak in Parliament.

It's reasonable to assume the Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and his staff read ministerial media statements, as this is the official channel through which the Government makes announcements.

I also refer to the apology tendered by the Leader of the Opposition on 02 April 2025 and observe that as a Shadow Minister in the Opposition, the Member for Miller must have known his statement was incorrect at the time it was made as a similar statement was made by the Leader of the Opposition.

In making the statement, the Member intended to mislead the House

Upon review of the archived broadcast, it can be seen that the Member for Miller is reading from a prewritten speech, which proves that the Member intended to assert a claim against the Crisafulli LNP Government that had already been established as factually incorrect.

Conclusion

This evidence clearly outlines that the Member for Miller has failed to uphold the standard expected of Members of Parliament and has deliberately misled the Parliament through his statement made on 01 April 2025.

Due to the critical and sensitive role of mental health services for new mums, I believe that an apology and a referral to the Ethics Committee is justified.

Should you require any further information or any clarification of matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Nicholls MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Member for Clayfield

legislation to extend the range of offences included in our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. Relying on expert legal advice, we believe there are valid and compelling reasons to take action against further criminal behaviour to ensure that those who commit offences face the consequences. After a decade of watering down laws, creating a generation of untouchable offenders benefiting from Labor's derelict approach to crime, it is now time to reverse the trend and put the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders.

There are two proposed offences that I want to draw to the attention of this House: using a motor vehicle to damage an emergency services vehicle; and endangering police while driving a motor vehicle. Both proposed offences cover the situation where motor vehicles, mostly stolen, are used as weapons against police or other emergency services workers. Those who are seeking to protect the community become the victims of criminal behaviour. I recall that on a recent visit to a Townsville police station at lunchtime a traffic branch officer was rammed by an offender in a stolen vehicle and taken to hospital. Previously there have been incidences in Townsville where a VKR comms call has sent every police officer in the district code 1—that is, the most urgent duty driving—back to the station to hide from young offenders in stolen cars who were hunting them. That is unacceptable and it has to change. It is not normal.

In what civilised society is such behaviour accepted? In what civilised society should the rights of these offenders take precedence over the rights of those they sought to injure or intimidate? The answer is simply none. Once again, while situations such as these became normalised under the former Labor government, we are committed to turning the tide on recidivist young violent offenders. As I have indicated, there have been 53 instances in the past year of the ramming of police vehicles—the targeting of police with deliberate acts by thugs with little regard for the safety of those under attack. These laws will protect frontline emergency services workers from being ruthlessly targeted by juveniles who have no fear because there were no consequences for their actions.


Our incredible emergency services workers deserve better protection from those who recklessly and intentionally use a motor vehicle as a weapon. We support our police and will ensure those who endanger their lives are held accountable. Only the LNP can be trusted to strengthen our legal and youth justice systems. We know that this next tranche will help bring down the number of victims of crime. This is just the next step in our comprehensive plan to make Queensland safer. The Acting Police Commissioner has reiterated his support for these reforms, saying—

We see this behaviour all too often, and while our officers are tactically trained to respond, a motor vehicle can cause serious harm to anyone in its path. The Queensland Police Service welcomes the proposed new law holding reckless juveniles to account.

I challenge those opposite to support these measures, and in particular to put their support behind those who have pledged to protect and assist the community and admit that the policy prescription of the last decade failed to restore the balance in favour of victims, not the offender. This is a challenge to the Leader of the Opposition to show some leadership and bring his rabble of a team with him. We saw what happened just before Christmas when those opposite, as has been reported, were tearing each other apart when it came to giving the people of Queensland the tough laws they had been calling for, to give our police the tough laws they have been screaming for.

The former government was the creator of the youth crime crisis in Queensland. Those opposite did not just sit by and watch it happen; they continually watered down the laws and caused it to happen, tipping the balance of power away from police, victims and communities and towards young repeat violent offenders. I call on the Leader of the Opposition and all those opposite today to support our police and support our laws.

Health System

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.26 pm): We remember Premier Crisafulli saying in this House on 10 December that there would be no health cuts. We remember him saying that he would sign up to the budget last year—2024—holus-bolus, before he even saw it. We heard him being clear about putting doctors and nurses back in charge, to use his own words. Remember those words. Remember them, because since those words all we have seen is cuts to the health sector: the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme, cut; funding to the Transfer Initiative Nurse program in emergency departments, cut; nurse-led clinic hours, cut at three different locations; gender-affirming care, suspended; pill testing, cut; funding for the perinatal unit in Townsville, cut.

The Townsville Hospital expansion—a very significant thing for the people of Townsville—has been put back on the never-never by this government. When asked yesterday at the health committee, the deputy director-general of Queensland Health said that he was unable to say when the expansion

Media Statements (/)[Subscribe \(/Subscribers/Create\)](#)[Help and Support \(/Help\)](#)**MEDIA STATEMENT: Crisafulli Government to deliver 30 perinatal mental health care beds**

Published Friday, 14 February, 2025 at 08:48 AM

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

The Honourable Tim Nicholls

Crisafulli Government to deliver 30 perinatal mental health care beds

- **The Crisafulli Government will deliver 30 perinatal mental health beds, including 8 in Townsville, as part of a boost to perinatal mental health services across the State.**
- **The Crisafulli Government will now undertake a competitive market approach to deliver all 30 beds sooner, with the best value for Queenslanders.**
- **It follows former health minister announcing a new eight-bed mother-and-baby perinatal mental health unit in Townsville without a competitive tender process and without allocating adequate funding.**

The Crisafulli Government will deliver more specialist perinatal inpatient treatment beds and additional community supports for new mothers and their families.

An eight-bed perinatal mental health unit in Townsville will be the first project of several to go through proper procurement processes to deliver the best value for Queenslanders, after the former Labor government ignored protocol and announced a direct agreement with Mater Private Hospital Townsville for the facility.

Townsville is one of six locations across the State the former government announced, on 10 May 2024, would receive an eight-bed perinatal mental health unit as part of a \$39 million commitment for 30 new beds.

The former Government was advised at the time of announcement that this level of funding was inadequate to support the delivery and infrastructure required for these beds state-wide and was warned of reputational and commercial risks of proceeding due to potential competitors not having had the opportunity to provide alternative proposals.

The direct procurement process for the Townsville beds was estimated to cost \$38 million alone, and the remainder of the beds would never have been delivered by Labor as promised.

In contrast, the Crisafulli Government will deliver all 30 beds sooner, and for the best value for money, by putting all projects through proper rigorous procurement processes.

Queensland Health will continue to engage with Townsville Hospital and Health Service, Mater and other potential providers on the capacity to establish perinatal mental health beds in Townsville.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Tim Nicholls said the Crisafulli Government would deliver 30 additional perinatal mental health beds for Queenslanders.

"The Crisafulli Government is committed to easier access to health services for all Queenslanders and this includes delivering 30 perinatal mental health beds," Minister Nicholls said.

"The facts are the former government awarded a project without procurement processes and without the budget to do the work.

"We are now going back to procurement for these beds and will deliver them for the best value for Queenslanders, when Labor never would have."

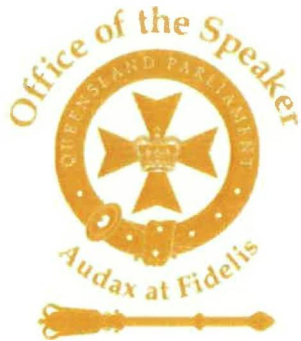
Minister Nicholls said this example of failing to properly fund projects was just the latest in a long line of un-funded and underfunded health services and infrastructure.

"To date, we have uncovered more than \$18 billion in Labor health blowouts including a \$6 billion blowout on the hospital infrastructure program to the \$12 billion funding black hole for services, and now inadequate funding for perinatal mental health beds," he said.

"The Crisafulli Government will fix Labor's mess and deliver world-class health services for Queenslanders, including perinatal mental health services."

ENDS

MEDIA CONTACT: David McLachlan 0428 716 171



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 250403-OUT-Miller

3 April 2025

Hon Mark Bailey MP
Member for Miller
Yeerongpilly Green Shopping Centre
Shop T2
Cnr King Aurthur Terrace & Queens Way
Yeeronpilly Qld 4105

By E-mail: miller@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mark

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 3 April 2025 from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. The said matter concerns whether you have deliberately misled the House. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

Deliberately misleading the House is listed as an example of behaviour that the House may treat as a contempt (see *Standing Order 266 (2)*).

Standing Order 269 (5) provides that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker may request further information from the person the subject of the allegation. Accordingly, I am writing to you pursuant to that Standing Order.

Standing Order 269 (4) provides that in considering whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker shall take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I wish to stress that I have not yet formed a view as to whether this particular allegation should be referred to the Ethics Committee. However, as a matter of course, I remind all members who are the subject of such allegations of the long-established convention that should a Member become aware they have inadvertently misled the House, they should, at the earliest opportunity, correct the record and apologise for their inadvertence.

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Should you wish to provide me with further information to assist me in making a determination as to whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee under *Standing Order 269* please provide your response by COB 17 April 2025.

In the meantime, should your office have any queries relating to this matter, they may be directed to my Executive Officer, Coral-Leah Kemp, by email to Speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au or on 07 3553 6700.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Weir', with a stylized flourish at the end.

HON PAT WEIR MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.



17 April 2025

The Honourable Pat Weir MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Queensland Parliament
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Via email: speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Speaker,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3 April 2025 regarding correspondence the Office of the Speaker received on that same day from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Member for Clayfield), dated 2 April 2025.

The Member for Clayfield has alleged that I deliberately misled the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament on Tuesday, 1 April 2025 in a Matters of Public Interest statement.

I accept that my language could have been clearer in respect of the health-related matters in Townsville and as such, will correct and update the record at the first available opportunity.

As a Member of Parliament I take my responsibilities seriously. I have never deliberately misled and will never deliberately mislead the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Mark Bailey MP
State MP for Miller
Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Shadow Minister for Mental Health



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MarkBaileyMP

Mark_Bailey_MP

Local. Progressive. Effective.