



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

2025–26 Budget Estimates - Appropriation Bill 2025

Education, Arts and Communities Committee



Report No. 6

58th Parliament, August 2025

This page is intentionally blank

Education, Arts and Communities Committee

Chair	Nigel Hutton MP, Member for Keppel
Deputy Chair	Corrine McMillan MP, Member for Mansfield
Members	Wendy Bourne MP, Member for Ipswich West Nicholas (Nick) Dametto MP, Member for Hinchinbrook Ariana Doolan MP, Member for Pumicestone Jon Krause MP, Member for Scenic Rim

Committee Secretariat

Telephone	(07) 3553 6623
Email	eacc@parliament.qld.gov.au
Committee Webpage	www.parliament.qld.gov.au/eacc

All references and webpages are current at the time of publishing.

Acknowledgements

The committee acknowledges the assistance provided by

- The Honourable John–Paul Langbroek, Minister for Education and the Arts
- The Honourable Fiona Simpson, Minister for Women and Women’s Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism; and
- The Honourable Amanda Camm, Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

The committee also acknowledges the assistance provided by departmental officers who contributed to the work of the committee during the estimates process.

Table of contents

Table of contents	ii
Chair’s foreword	iii
Executive summary	iv
Recommendations	v
1. Overview of the budget estimates process.....	1
1.1. Inquiry process	2
1.2. Attendance by other Members of Parliament	3
1.3. Recommendation	3
2. Minister for Education and the Arts.....	4
2.1. Department of Education.....	4
2.1.1. Budget overview.....	5
2.1.2. Budget highlights – Department of Education.....	6
2.1.3. Capital program.....	7
2.1.4. Matters raised during the Estimates process.....	7
3. Minister for Women, Women’s Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism.....	9
3.1. Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism.....	9
3.1.1. Budget overview.....	9
3.1.2. Budget highlights – Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism	10
3.1.3. Capital program.....	11
3.1.4. Matters raised during the Estimates process.....	12
4. Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	14
4.1. Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety	14
4.1.1. Budget overview.....	14
4.1.2. Budget highlights – Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety	16
4.1.3. Capital program.....	18
4.1.4. Matters raised during the Estimates process.....	19
Statement of Reservation	21

Chair's foreword

This report presents a summary of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee's (committee) examination of the Appropriation Bill 2025 and budget estimates for the committee's portfolio areas for the 2025-26 financial year.

Consideration of these estimates allows for the public examination of the proposed expenditure through questioning of responsible Ministers and other officials during a public hearing, and through a question on notice process.

The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2025 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly.

On behalf of the committee, I thank Minister Langbroek, Minister Simpson, Minister Camm and their staff for their assistance in providing information to the committee throughout this process.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the members of the committee. Especially Rebecca Young MP - Redlands who served as replacement committee member for Jon Krause MP - Scenic Rim. As Deputy Speaker, Mr Krause served the parliament in a different capacity throughout Estimates 2025.

Finally, I thank the Speaker who diligently; with good humour and grace, presided over estimates 2025. In this endeavour he was ably assisted by the Clerk, the committee's secretariat and other Parliamentary Service staff; all of whom should be acknowledged for their assistance.

I commend this report to the House.



Nigel Hutton MP

Chair

Executive summary

On 24 June 2025, the Honourable David Janetzki MP, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership introduced the Appropriation Bill 2025 (Bill) into the Legislative Assembly. The Bill was referred to the portfolio committees of the Legislative Assembly, including the Education, Arts and Communities Committee (the committee) for consideration.

The estimates process is one of the key mechanisms to examine government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Bill, the committee assists the Parliament in its scrutiny of the Government's proposed expenditure.

The total appropriation for 2025–26 is \$105,417,248,000.¹

The committee's examination of the Bill is in relation to the:

- Department of Education
- Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism
- Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety.²

The committee conducted public hearings and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the:

- Minister for Education and the Arts and other witnesses on 7 August 2025
- Minister for Women, Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism and other witnesses on 7 August 2025
- Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and other witnesses on 7 August 2025.

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues the committee examined including information contained in the:

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing.

The committee made one recommendation (found at page 3 of this report): that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Bill for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

¹ Appropriation Bill 2025, s 2.

² Standing Orders, sch 6; Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 1.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1 3

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2025 for the committee’s areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

1. Overview of the budget estimates process

The Appropriation Bill 2025 was introduced into Parliament by the Honourable David Janetzki MP, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership, on 24 June 2025. The Bill was referred to portfolio committees for investigation and report on 27 June 2025.³

The estimates process is one of the key mechanisms to examine government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill the committee assists the Parliament in its scrutiny of the Government's proposed expenditure.

The total appropriation for 2025–26 is \$105,417,248,000.⁴

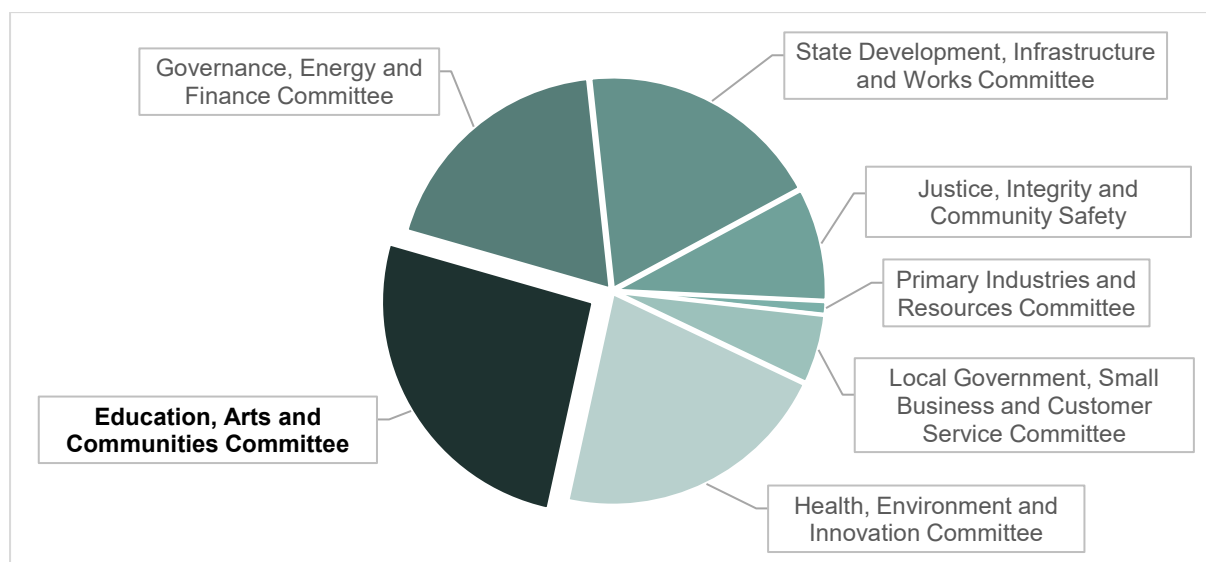
The table and figures below set out the appropriations examined by the committee.

Table 1: All appropriations examined by the committee in this report, 2025–26

Department or entity	Vote 2025–2026 (\$'000)
Department of Education	20,370,037
Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety	6,868,338
Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism	181,803
Total appropriation overseen by this committee	27,420,178

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025

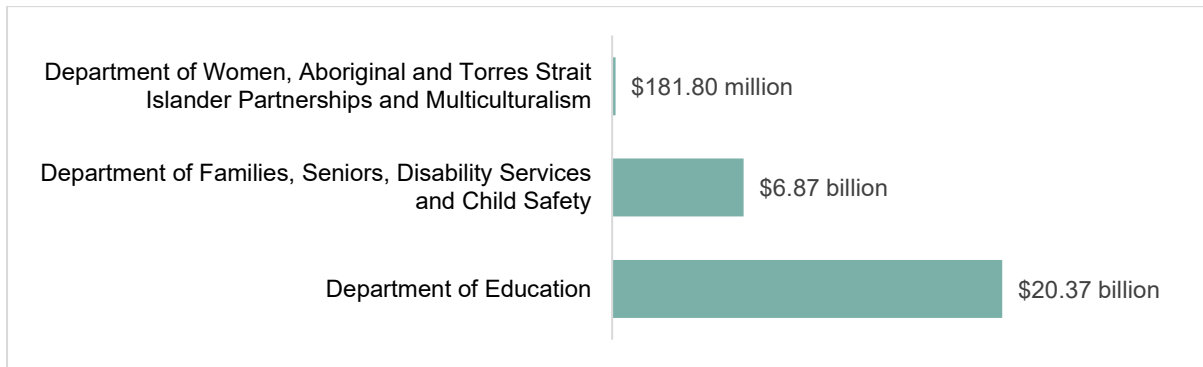
Figure 1: Budget appropriations by committee, 2025–26



Source: Appropriation Bill 2025

³ Standing Order 177 provides for the Annual Appropriation Bills to stand referred to portfolio committee once the Bills have been read a second time; Legislative Assembly of Queensland, Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

⁴ Appropriation Bill 2025, p 4.

Figure 2: Departmental appropriations examined by this committee, 2025–26

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025

The committee's examination of the Appropriation Bill 2025 is in relation to the:

- Department of Education
- Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety; and,
- Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism.⁵

1.1. Inquiry process

On 7 August 2025, the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the Minister for Education and the Arts; the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism; the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence; and other witnesses.⁶

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues the committee examined. The committee considered information contained in:

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing
- additional information given in relation to answers.

Prior to the public hearing, the committee provided the Minister for Education and the Arts; the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism; and the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence with questions on notice in relation to the estimates. Responses to all the questions were received.

⁵ Standing Orders, sch 6.

⁶ Hansard, Record of Proceedings, Estimates committee transcript, Brisbane, 7 August 2025.

Answers to the committee's pre-hearing questions on notice, documents tabled during the hearing, answers, and additional information provided by Ministers after the hearing are included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report.

1.2. Attendance by other Members of Parliament

Mrs Rebecca Young MP, Member for Redlands, attended as substitute for Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Scenic Rim.

The following Members attended as substitutes for Ms Corrine McMillan MP, Member for Mansfield, in accordance with Standing Order 202:

- The Honourable Leanne Enoch MP, Member for Algester
- The Honourable Di Farmer MP, Member for Bulimba
- The Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP, Member for Waterford
- Mrs Charis Mullen MP, Member for Jordan

The following non-committee Members participated in the hearings with the leave of the committee:

- The Honourable Mick de Brenni MP, Member for Springwood
- The Honourable Leanne Enoch MP, Member for Algester
- Dr Christian Rowan MP, Leader of the House, Member for Moggill.

1.3. Recommendation

Pursuant to Standing Order 187(1), the committee must state whether the proposed expenditures referred to it are agreed to.

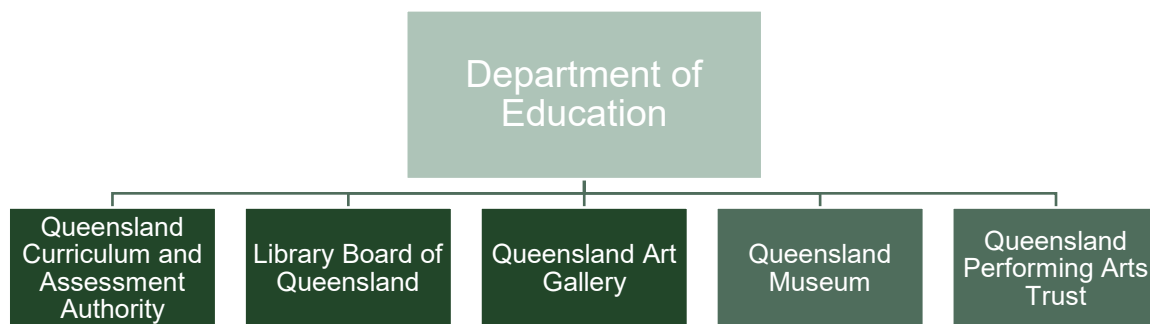


Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2025 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

2. Minister for Education and the Arts

The Minister for Education and the Arts has responsibility for the following agencies, services and statutory entities:⁷



To assist the committee with its consideration of portfolio estimates, and in keeping with the requirements of Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, the Chief Executives of the following organisations were present at the hearing on 7 August 2025:⁸

- Queensland Art Gallery
- Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
- Queensland Museum
- Queensland Performing Arts Centre/Queensland Performing Arts Trust
- Queensland Theatre Company
- Screen Queensland Pty Ltd
- State Library of Queensland / Library Board of Queensland.

2.1. Department of Education

The Honourable John–Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education and the Arts, is the Minister responsible for the Department of Education (DoE). DoE is responsible for the following service areas:

- Early Childhood Education and Care
- School Education
- Arts Queensland.⁹

⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, Service Delivery Statements (SDS), Department of Education (DoE), p (i).

⁸ Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders sets out a list of statutory entities to which direct questioning of chief executives at estimates applies.

⁹ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, Service Delivery Statements (SDS), Department of Education (DoE), pp 3, 4, 6.

The objectives of these service areas are:

- Queensland children engaged in quality early years programs that support learning and development and strengthen successful transitions to school.
- Queensland students engaged in learning, achieving and successfully transitioning to further education, training and work.
- Enhance Queenslanders' access to arts and culture, through investment in the creation, development and presentation of arts product, cultural experiences, and cultural infrastructure.¹⁰

2.1.1. Budget overview

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2025 illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for DoE for 2025–26, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for DoE in 2024–25.

Appropriations	Budget 2024–25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024–25 \$'000	Vote 2025–26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	13,298,648	12,897,824	14,183,548
equity adjustment	163,079	(222,393)	(115,302)
<i>Administered Items</i>	5,687,912	5,942,139	6,301,791
Vote	19,149,639	18,617,570	20,370,037

Source 1. Appropriation Bill 2025–26, sch 2, p 9.

The proposed budget comprises \$14.932 billion in controlled departmental expenditure and \$11.033 billion in administered expenditure. Notably, the proposed budget comprises appropriations (shown above), as well as DoE's 'Other revenue'.¹¹

The proposed \$14.932 billion in controlled departmental expenditure represents an increase of \$830 million on estimated actual department spending in 2024–25 (\$14.102 billion). The proposed \$11.033 billion dollars in administered expenditure represents an increase of \$477 million on estimated actual spending for 2024–25 (\$10.556 billion).

The Service Delivery Statements (SDS) note that the increase in controlled expenses mainly reflects provision for enterprise bargaining, increased depreciation expenditure, expenditure related to school education related initiatives, and funding as a result of the *Better and Fairer Schools Agreement—Full and Fair Funding*.¹² The SDS notes changes to administered expenditure and revenue relate to increased funding for non-state

¹⁰ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DoE, pp 3, 4, 6.

¹¹ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DoE, p 7.

¹² Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DoE, p 10.

schools, as outlined in the *Australian Education Act 2013, Better and Fairer Schools Agreement—Full and Fair Funding*.¹³

The SDS also notes the DoE was impacted by machinery-of-government changes, from 1 November 2024, that saw Arts Queensland transferred from the former Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts.¹⁴

i. Trends in appropriation

As a consequence of the recent machinery-of-government changes, the committee accepts that figures from previous budgets are not directly comparable with those of 2025–26.

2.1.2. Budget highlights – Department of Education

The 2025–26 budget highlights for DoE include:¹⁵

The State's commitment under the new 10-year <i>Better and Fairer Schools Agreement—Full and Fair Funding</i>	\$2.772 billion over 5 years (\$9.356 billion over 10 years).
Funding for the planning and construction of new primary schools at Caloundra South (West) and Ripley Valley (White Rock) and new special schools or campuses at Central Logan (Berrinba), Coomera, Springfield/Redbank, Beenleigh, Moreton Bay South and Ipswich West.	Increased funding of \$814.8 million over 4 years.
\$100 per student to support parents, families and carers with the cost of school essentials from the start of the 2026 school year.	\$188.6 million over 4 years.
Funding the Queensland Early Childhood Regulatory Authority to effectively regulate early childhood education and care services.	\$12.7 million over 4 years and \$4.2 million ongoing.
Collaborating with the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support in the rollout of 6 new or expanded youth justice and crime prevention schools.	
Funding to restore Screen Industry Attraction and Development.	\$42 million, comprising \$38.2 million in new investment and \$3.8 million to be sourced internally.

¹³ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DoE, p 10.

¹⁴ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DoE, p 10.

¹⁵ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DoE, p 2.

2.1.3. Capital program

The SDS reports 2025–26 capital purchases of \$1.143 billion, which includes \$994.3 million for the construction and renewal of school educational facilities, as well as early childhood education and care facilities. The capital program outlined in the SDS for 2025–26 includes:

- a further \$814.8 million over 4 years, held centrally, has been allocated for the planning and construction of new primary schools at Caloundra South (West) and Ripley Valley (White Rock) and new special schools or campuses at Central Logan (Berrinba), Coomera, Springfield/Redbank, Beenleigh, Moreton Bay South and Ipswich West
- \$490.2 million to deliver world-class learning environments for students including \$110 million for a new primary school at Holmview, and new secondary and special schools in Logan Reserve, and \$244.5 million for the expansion of existing state schools experiencing rapid enrolment growth
- \$173.7 million for the renewal (major refurbishment and replacement) of existing infrastructure and infrastructure works for meeting legislative obligations and safety requirements
- \$317.5 million to upgrade or provide additional school and early childhood education infrastructure that enhances education outcomes, including \$124.8 million for critical infrastructure upgrades to create contemporary learning environments as part of the Special School Infrastructure, Contemporary Specialist Spaces and Discrete Indigenous Community Infrastructure improvement programs
- \$26.9 million for capital asset renewal works, compliance upgrades and safety improvements and amenities upgrades across the Queensland Cultural Centre
- \$16.2 million for end of life asset replacement and renewal works at the Queensland Cultural Centre
- \$143 million for the non-state schooling sector and student hostels.¹⁶

2.1.4. Matters raised during the Estimates process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of DoE are below:

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing questions on notice ¹⁷
Review of School Resourcing	1
Budgeted funding for schools, including capital works	2, 4, 10, 11, 14, 20

¹⁶ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DoE, p 8.

¹⁷ The complete list of questions on notice has been collated in the associated Volume of Additional Information.

Travel costs	3
Red-tape reduction measures	5, 13
Safety incidents	6
Arts funding and cultural experiences	7, 8, 16, 17, 18
School-related costs	9
More Teachers, Better Education Plan	12, 15
Youth Justice Schools in Queensland	19

Matter Description	Public hearing transcript, Brisbane, 7 August 2025, page no.
Queensland Teachers' Union- Enterprise bargaining	3–7, 19–21
United Workers Union – Enterprise bargaining	6–7
Teachers Professional Association of Queensland Inc. – Enterprise bargaining	7
School infrastructure maintenance	7–8, 17–18
Industrial strike action – school management	7, 13–14, 27
More Teachers, Better Education Plan	8–9
Back to School Boost program	9
Anti-bullying initiatives	3, 9–11
Early childhood safety measures	3, 11–12, 28
Positive behaviour support	12, 15
Better and Fairer Schools Agreement	16–17
Occupational violence and aggression in schools	21–23
NAPLAN	24–26
State Library black&write! writing fellowship, and Queensland Literary Award judging panels	29–33
<i>Queensland's time to shine: a 10-year strategy for arts and culture</i> and the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games	33–34
Regional arts investment	35–36

3. Minister for Women, Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism

The Minister for Women, Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism has responsibility for the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism.¹⁸

To assist the committee with its consideration of portfolio estimates, and in keeping with the requirements of Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, the Chief Executive of the Family Responsibilities Commission was present at the hearing on 7 August 2025.¹⁹

3.1. Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism

The Honourable Fiona Simpson MP, Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism, is the Minister responsible for the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism (DWATSIPM). DWATSIPM is responsible for the following service areas:

- Office for Women
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
- Multicultural Affairs Queensland.²⁰

The objectives of these services areas are to:

- improve the economic security of women in Queensland
- improve the economic and social outcomes for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- improve economic and social outcomes for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in Queensland, and to help build safe, caring and connected communities, with a focus on helping new migrant communities overcome barriers to full economic and social involvement and enhancing social cohesion and participation.²¹

3.1.1. Budget overview

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2025 illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for the department for 2025–26, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for the former Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts in 2024–25.

¹⁸ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism (DWATSIPM), p (i).

¹⁹ Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders sets out a list of statutory entities to which direct questioning of chief executives at estimates applies.

²⁰ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DWATSIPM, pp 3, 4, 5.

²¹ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DWATSIPM, pp 3, 4, 5.

Appropriations	Budget 2024–25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024–25 \$'000	Vote 2025–26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	517,719	226,388	169,020
equity adjustment	25,441	13,276	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	248,964	150,356	12,783
Vote	792,124	390,020	181,803

Source 2. Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 14.

The proposed budget comprises \$167.6 million in controlled departmental expenditure and \$14.9 million in administered expenditure. Notably, the proposed budget comprises appropriations (shown above), as well as DWATSIPM's 'Other revenue'.²²

The proposed \$167.3 million in controlled departmental expenditure represents a decrease of \$90.3 million on estimated actual department spending in 2024–25 (\$257.9 million). The proposed \$14.9 million dollars in administered expenditure represents a decrease of \$366.1 million on estimated actual spending for 2024–25 (\$381.0 million).

The Service Delivery Statements (SDS) note that revenue and expenditure for controlled and administered items is lower than 2024–25 mainly due to machinery-of-government changes.²³

i. Trends in appropriation

As a consequence of the recent machinery-of-government changes, the committee accepts that figures from previous budgets are not directly comparable with those of 2025–26.

3.1.2. Budget highlights – Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism

The 2025–26 budget highlights for the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism include:²⁴

Helping women get back into the workforce with grants to cover essentials such as workwear, childcare and retraining.	Funding of \$20 million over 4 years
---	--------------------------------------

²² Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DWATSIPM, p 6; on the discordance between income and expenditure, page 6 of the SDS says:

Due to a timing difference for recognition of revenue and expenses in relation to a Memorandum of Understanding with Queensland Mental Health Commission, \$87,000 of revenue was recognised in 2022–23 and \$600,000 in 2023–24 but expenditure was deferred to 2024–25 (\$200,000), 2025–26 (\$320,000) and 2026–27 (\$167,000), resulting in the deficits recognised in 2024–25 (Est. Act.) and 2025–26 (Budget).

²³ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DWATSIPM, p 8.

²⁴ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DWATSIPM, p 2.

Work with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for the construction of a statue in honour of the late Dr Merle Thornton	
Increased funding to further support administering the <i>Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Child Rearing Practices) Act 2020</i> .	Funding of \$6.8 million over 3 years from 2026–27 and a total of \$8.9 million
Funding not-for-profit multicultural community groups to build or upgrade their facilities to enable access to permanent, quality facilities that meet community needs.	Funding of \$5 million over 4 years
Building Queensland's first Chinese Culture and Heritage Centre in Cairns.	Funding of \$2.7 million in 2025–26
Expanding the peak funding contract with the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland.	Increased funding of \$1.5 million over 4 years.

3.1.3. Capital program

The SDS reports that of the 2025–26 capital outlays of \$10.6 million:

- \$5.0 million will be invested in regional infrastructure to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community initiatives, and a further
- \$4.3 million will be provided to help multicultural community groups to build or upgrade facilities.²⁵

²⁵ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DWATSIPM, p 7.

3.1.4. Matters raised during the Estimates process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism are below:

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing questions on notice ²⁶
Alcohol Management Plans	1
Closing the Gap and improving social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	2, 3, 14, 15, 20
Staffing at Multicultural Affairs Queensland	4
Multicultural Queensland Program	5, 10, 11
Office of Women's grants funding, expenditure, programs, and sponsorships	6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19,
25th anniversary of the South Sea Islander community	9
<i>Meriba Osmasker Kaziw Kazipa</i> Commissioner	12, 13

Matter Description	Public hearing transcript, Brisbane, 7 August 2025, page no.
Cultural awareness training	40–41
National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and the Closing the Gap Priorities Fund	41–44, 48–49, 51
Coalition of Peaks	43
NAIDOC Week	44–45
<i>Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa</i> Commissioner and Cultural Recognition Orders	45–46
Welcomes to country and cultural ceremonies	46
Projects in rural areas	46–47
Palm Island Home Ownership Scheme	47–48
Economic opportunities for First Nations peoples in relation to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games	50–51
Department FTE statistics in the SDS	51–52

²⁶ The complete list of questions on notice has been collated in the associated Volume of Additional Information.

Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grant program	54, 56
Capital works for multicultural community group upgrades	55–56
Multicultural Affairs Queensland	56–58
Multicultural Connect grants program	58
South Sea Islander community	58–59
Multicultural communities	59, 61–62
Community Hubs Australia	60
Regional events planned for North Queensland	60–61
Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance	61
Welcoming Cities Program	61
Women and Girls' health strategy 2032	63, 71
IVF services	65
Gendered pay gap, women's economic participation, and gender equality	65–66, 71–72
Protections for women at work	66
CFMEU	66–68
Workplace harassment	67
Women's economic security	68–69
Return to the workforce funding	70, 72

4. Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

The Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence has responsibility for the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety.²⁷

No Chief Executives were required under Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders to be present at the hearing on 7 August 2025.²⁸

4.1. Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

The Honourable Amanda Camm MP, Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, is the Minister responsible for the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDSCS). DFSDSCS is responsible for the following service areas:

- Child Safety
- Families
- Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
- Seniors and Disability Services.²⁹

The objectives of these services areas are to:

- enable families to safely care for their children and young people, and provide services to support the safety, belonging and wellbeing and best interests of children and young people not able to be cared for by their families
- Accessible, timely and responsive delivery of community services, including human and social recovery and resilience activities for Queenslanders impacted by disasters and critical incidents
- To prevent and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence
- To deliver high quality services and safeguards and promote the safety, inclusion, engagement, rights and social and economic participation of seniors, carers and people with disability.³⁰

4.1.1. Budget overview

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2025 illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for DFSDSCS for 2025–26, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for the former Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services in 2024–25.

²⁷ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDSCS), p (i).

²⁸ Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders sets out a list of statutory entities to which direct questioning of Chief Executives at estimates applies.

²⁹ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DFSDSCS, pp 4, 6, 7, 8.

³⁰ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DFSDSCS, pp 4, 6, 7, 8.

Appropriations	Budget 2024–25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024–25 \$'000	Vote 2025–26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	2,590,054	3,297,614	3,485,553
equity adjustment	1,813	3,529	20,075
<i>Administered Items</i>	3,551,715	3,359,557	3,362,710
Vote	6,143,582	6,660,700	6,868,338

Source 3. Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 10.

The proposed budget comprises \$3.617 billion in controlled departmental expenditure and \$3.283 billion in administered expenditure. Notably, the proposed budget comprises appropriations (shown above), as well as DFSDSCS's 'Other revenue'.³¹

The proposed \$3.617 billion in controlled departmental expenditure represents an increase of \$143 million on estimated actual department spending in 2024–25 (\$3.474 billion). The proposed \$3.283 billion dollars in administered expenditure represents a decrease of \$409 million on estimated actual spending for 2024–25 (\$3.692).

The Service Delivery Statements (SDS) note that changes in revenue and expenditure from 2024–25 to 2025–26 reflect the impact of machinery-of-government changes that occurred during 2024–25.³²

i. Trends in appropriation

As a consequence of the recent machinery-of-government changes, the committee accepts that figures from previous budgets are not directly comparable with those of 2025–26.

³¹ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DFSDSCS, p 9.

³² Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DFSDSCS, p 11.

4.1.2. Budget highlights – Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

The 2025–26 budget highlights for DFSDSCS include: ³³

Child safety placements in response to the ongoing pressures in the child protection system.	\$661 million over 2 years from 2024–25
Funding to support the government's Safer Children, Safer Communities plan focused on reforming the residential care system and protecting our State's most vulnerable children.	<p>\$164.1 million over 4 years from 2025–26, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$70.1 million over 3 years for a \$1,500 funding boost to carers and guardians for children and young people in the child protection system to support participation in extracurricular activities • \$28.8 million over 4 years for a professional foster care pilot for children with disabilities and complex needs in residential care • \$10.9 million over 4 years to help deliver a dual-carer model in therapeutic residential care to address concerns about safety and oversight in these facilities • operational funding of \$4.3 million and capital funding of \$50 million over 3 years to deliver a SecureCare residential facility specifically designed for children and young people in the out-of-home care system who are a danger to themselves or others.
Funding to prevent and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence.	<p>\$114.5 million over 6 years from 2024–25 (including \$2.9 million internally allocated). This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$31.3 million over 4 years from 2024–25 to double both Womensline and Mensline capacity • \$4.5 million over 5 years from 2025–26 and \$1 million per annum ongoing to expand Hope Hub recovery centres to 3 additional sites • \$75.8 million over 5 years from 2025–26, held centrally, subject to finalisation of the bilateral Project Plan, to contribute to the <i>National</i>

³³ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DFSDSCS, pp 2–3.

	<p><i>Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2025–30</i>, with matching funding provided by the Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.9 million over 3 years from 2026–27 is being met internally by the department, as part of a total government commitment of \$2.5 million over 4 years, to Protea Place Women's Support Centre in Toowoomba • \$1 million over 4 years from 2025–26 is being met internally by the department, to WillowTree 37, which provides critical, urgent and ongoing assistance to vulnerable women.
Delivering a range of government election commitments including Men's Shed facilities, University of the Third Age facilities, community halls and neighbourhood centres.	<p>\$29.4 million over 5 years from 2024–25, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20.6 million as part of the government's total funding package of \$62.7 million over 5 years for the <i>Supporting Our Local Communities Program</i> • \$4.5 million as part of the government's total funding package of \$36.3 million over 4 years for the <i>Local Infrastructure Improvements Program</i>.
Funding for the Queensland Community Support Scheme to provide low-intensity supports to assist people to actively engage in their community.	<p>\$10 million in 2025–26 (including \$2 million internally allocated) with a further \$5 million in 2025–26 internally allocated to restore disability advocacy funding in 2025–26.</p>
Funding to help Queenslanders in difficult circumstances.	<p>More than \$6.4 million in 2025–26 (including \$5.7 million internally allocated). This includes \$2.2 million to restore funding for the Queensland Financial Resilience Program, \$3.5 million to restore funding arrangements for emergency relief providers, and \$700,000 to restore funding support for school breakfast programs.</p>

4.1.3. Capital program

The SDS reports that the capital program for DFSDSCS in 2025–26 is \$79 million. This includes:

- \$23.3 million for new and replacement neighbourhood centres throughout Queensland and for upgrades to existing neighbourhood centres
- \$10 million in 2025–26 of a total \$50 million for a SecureCare residential facility specifically designed for children and young people in the out-of-home care system who are a danger to themselves or others
- \$7.5 million to enhance and develop information systems and programs to provide additional system functionality, information security and contemporary technology to improve service delivery, including a continuous improvement pipeline for the Unify program
- \$5.8 million of Disability Services facilities including upgrade, improvement and modification of accommodation facilities for Disability Services clients, and fit out of office accommodation
- \$4.4 million for replacement of information technology infrastructure that is at end of life
- \$4.3 million to complete the construction of a new neighbourhood centre in Rockhampton
- \$4.2 million for Child Safety facilities, including upgrades to residential care facilities, and fit out and upgrade of Child Safety service centres and office accommodation
- \$3.7 million to complete the upgrade of the Mount Isa Diversionary Centre to enable a specific service offering for women
- \$3.1 million capital grant to build new facilities for the Dickson Men's Shed and Stationary Aid at James Drysdale Reserve at Bunya
- \$2.5 million capital grant in 2025–26 of a total \$5 million to expand Gateway Care, a Caloundra based food rescue organisation, to help welfare recipients with low cost groceries.³⁴

³⁴ Queensland Budget, 2025-26, SDS, DFSDSCS, p 10.

4.1.4. Matters raised during the Estimates process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety are below:

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing questions on notice ³⁵
Staffing, funding, and programs for Child Safety services	1, 2, 3
Staffing, funding, and initiatives relating to DFV	4, 5, 6, 14, 20
SecureCare residential facility	7, 11
Queensland seniors' support programs	8, 17
Community safety	9
Individual Placement Support for vulnerable children in care	10
UNIFY system	12
Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce	13
Cost of living measures	16
Disability support provider sector	18
Dual carer model for residential care facilities	19

Matter Description	Public hearing transcript, Brisbane, 7 August 2025, page no.
Blue Card Services	75–76
Roadmap for Residential Care	76
Crisis management processes at residential care facilities	76–77
Residential care worker register	77–78
Department staffing: positions and FTE	78, 81, 103
The Safer Children, Safer Communities plan	78
Frontline child safety staff	79
Foster and kinship carer programs	80
Residential care	80–81

³⁵ The complete list of questions on notice has been collated in the associated Volume of Additional Information.

Commission of inquiry into the child safety system and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse here in Queensland	81, 90
Conflict of interest management plans	84–85
Support for at-risk families	85
Cost-of-living relief measures	86–87
Queensland seniors' support programs	86, 103
Addressing seniors' social isolation	87
Community recovery	88–89
Investment in regional programs	89
Men's Sheds	89–90
Disaster hardship payments	90–92
National Disability Insurance Scheme	92
Seniors Expos and Seniors Savings Pop-Ups	92
Queensland's LGBTQIA+ community	93
DFV data collection and metrics	94–96
Queensland Police Service Integrity Unit	96–97
DFV law reform	97
DVConnect review, and DFV initiatives	97–99, 103
DFV support for men	99–100
Misidentification in DFV incidents	100
Police protection directions	100–101
Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce	101–102

Statement of Reservation



Statement of Reservation

Education, Arts and
Communities Committee

Appropriation Bill 2025



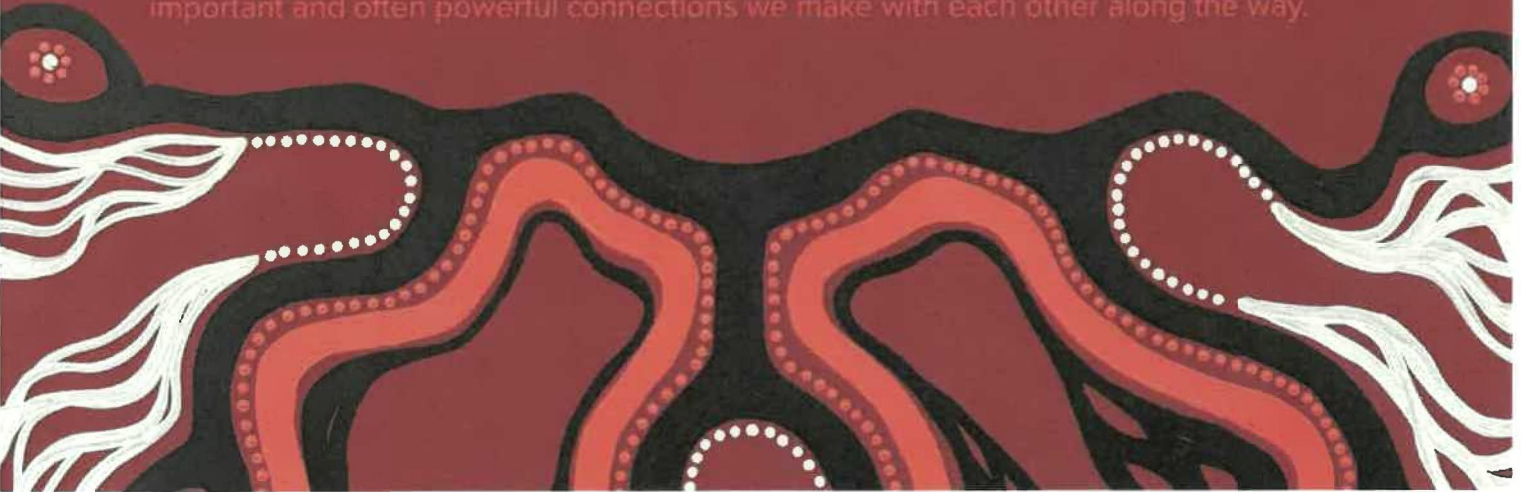


Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands, seas, skies and waterways from across Queensland.

We pay our respect to the Elders, past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This artwork by The Hon LEEANNE ENOCH MP is called "The Power of Many" from her "Connections" series. It represents the paths we take to reach our goals and the many important and often powerful connections we make with each other along the way.



Queensland Labor Opposition

The Queensland Labor Opposition thanks public sector employees right across Queensland for the work that they do each and every day on behalf of all Queenslanders. Without over 270,000 full-time equivalent public sector roles in Queensland undertaking that work, Queenslanders would not have access to the services and support that they need and deserve.

In particular, the Queensland Labor Opposition thanks all public servants involved in the preparation of Budget Estimates. Preparing for a Budget Estimates process is a monumental task that can involve hundreds of staff to not only attend the public hearings but also prepare briefing materials and gather information.

EDUCATION

ENTERPRISE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS

The Crisafulli LNP Government continues to disrespect the hardworking teachers and school staff who are the backbone of our schools and education system. After almost six months of negotiations between the Department of Education and the Queensland Teachers' Union and two rejected Enterprise Bargaining offers, more than 50,000 Queensland teachers went on strike for the first time in over 16 years.

The strike occurred on Wednesday 6 August one day before the estimates hearing. The Premier was not seen or heard from as teachers across the state took protected industrial action to fight for the nation leading pay and conditions they deserve – and that were promised to them by then Leader of the Opposition David Crisafulli before the election.

The Crisafulli LNP Government's insulting pay offer, and refusal to meet the needs of teachers in the classroom on matters like occupational violence, is yet another example of the LNP breaking the promises they made to win an election.

The Queensland Labor Opposition proudly stands with the Queensland Teachers' Union and all school staff as they fight for what they were promised by the LNP, and for better pay and conditions.

It was revealed at the opening of the hearing that despite his department holding 18 meetings with the Queensland Teachers' Union relating to current EB negotiations, the Minister for Education and the Arts had held just two meetings with the union – and did not discuss EB negotiations:

***Mr LANGBROEK:** "They are discussions of not necessarily specific matters. To the best of my knowledge and my memory of the last meetings, we did not actually discuss specific matters to do with the enterprise bargain."¹*

The Minister's admission that he had failed to meet with the Queensland Teachers' Union outside what he called "general discussions" is, in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition, a failure in his duties, and speaks to the anti-worker, laissez-faire approach to industrial relations by this LNP Government.

During the hearing, the Queensland Labor Opposition tabled a media clip from an interview the Minister conducted on ABC Radio on 31 July 2025. When asked about the QTU's comments that if they were to accept the LNP's wages offers, our teachers would be among the lowest paid in the country, the Minister said, "It's the story of lies, lies and damn statistics."

The Minister took 377 words and several minutes to try justify and respond to the words he used in the ABC radio interview.

His argument was that he was referring to people cherry-picking statistics – but at the same time as saying he was not making direct reflections, said:

¹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 4

Queensland Labor Opposition

Mr LANGBROEK: *“When we talk about the Teachers’ Union, I was completing the fact that I said that the teachers’ union yesterday seemed to be quite careful in some of their statements about whether they would, as a result of the enterprise bargain that we are currently negotiating—they were loath to say as the ‘lowest paid’. They said ‘amongst the lowest paid’.”*²

This is a clear attempt by the Minister to try and justify the unacceptable wages offer put forward by the Crisafulli LNP Government. The Queensland Labor Opposition questions this line of argument by the Minister – is it his contention that because teachers will be “among the lowest paid” and not the actual lowest paid his wages offer is acceptable? Queensland teachers say otherwise.

Perhaps the most genuinely shocking and shameful abdication of responsibility was when the Shadow Minister asked the following question of the Minister:

Ms FARMER: *“For the benefit of the committee, could you advise the five interest areas that the QTU has been negotiating regarding EB11?”*³

Just one day after the first teachers strike in 16 years, Minister Langbroek was unable to specifically list the five interest areas identified in the EB11 negotiations with the QTU.

The Minister’s answer canvassed some broad issues that have been aired in the media but, extraordinarily, was not only unable to list the specific interest areas of the EB11 until they were put in front of him, he did not appear to even know that there were such things as interest areas.

STRIKE DAY

The Queensland Teachers’ Union announced on Tuesday 29 July their intention to undertake protected industrial action following a ballot of members, where an overwhelming majority voted in favour of taking said action. This gave the Department of Education 8 days to prepare the school system for the disruption.

Correspondence from the Department

During the hearing, the Queensland Labor Opposition asked the Director-General about preparation for the strike day. The Shadow Minister for Education and the Early Years and Shadow Minister for Youth Justice asked the Director-General about two separate pieces of correspondence sent by the Department in preparation for the strike.

Whistle-blowers told the Queensland Labor Opposition that the Department of Education issued a directive to principals that they were only allowed to issue departmental-approved communications regarding the strike day to school communities.

While the Queensland Labor Opposition acknowledges the need for consistency in direction, it is important to remember that no school or school community is the same, and Principals are always best placed to understand their needs more than executives in head office.

One piece of correspondence provided by schools included the following line:

“While attendance will still be marked, if your child is absent tomorrow, they will not have this recorded as an absence on their attendance record.”

The Queensland Labor Opposition revealed that at 2:30pm the day before the strike, a further piece of correspondence that included ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ was sent to principals, outlining that students would in fact be penalised if parents did not notify their school of the reason for their child’s absence on the strike day – in direct contradiction to the letter sent previously.

² https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 6

³ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 19

Queensland Labor Opposition

The Shadow Minister asked the Minister:

“Ms FARMER: Do you accept that the second letter sent out half an hour before schools were about to close the day before strike action is in direct conflict with the first letter that principals were instructed to send out about student absences?”⁴

The Queensland Labor Opposition has heard from whistleblowers that many principals were very angry and embarrassed about the inconsistent messages they were being asked to send to their school communities; and that a number of them in fact chose not to send the second message.

The Shadow Minister also asked:

“Ms FARMER: I table a document which I understand is a set of FAQs that was sent out to principals at 2.30 the day before the strike saying that students would be penalised if parents did not notify the school of the reason for their child’s absence on the strike day, which is in contradiction of the letter that the department instructed principals to send out previously. Why is your department penalising students for teachers taking protected industrial action yesterday?”⁵

It is the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition that the Minister did not accept responsibility.

OVERSEAS TRIP DURING ENTERPRISE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS

It was also revealed in a pre-hearing Question on Notice and during further examination in the hearing that Minister Langbroek had intended to take overseas work travel to Europe, in the middle of EB Negotiations – and on the same weekend as the Queensland Teachers’ Union Conference.

Whistleblowers have told the Queensland Labor Opposition that the Minister was forced to cancel this trip within hours of leaving, on the Premier’s insistence that he attend the QTU Conference instead.

The Minister, in response to a question regarding why the Minister considered the trip, which included attendance at a Cultural Olympiad in Paris, said that the trip was appropriate during EB negotiations:

“There was a fine line then between our budget being brought in June and the UK school terms finishing for their summer holidays, so that is when the trip was planned. The QTU conference notification came to my office sometime after the trip had been arranged.”⁶

The Queensland Labor Opposition attempted to ask a follow-up question on the Minister’s decision to prioritise this trip over the QTU conference:

“Ms FARMER: To clarify, with the QTU conference coming up and with EB negotiations looking like they were not going very well, which is arguably the biggest issue in your portfolio, you still kept on with your intention to go on an overseas trip instead of the conference so that you could attend a cultural Olympiad. You considered that a greater priority than attending the QTU conference until the very last minute; is that correct?”⁷

The Leader of the House (and former Shadow Minister for Education) took issue with the question, and the committee moved on to the next question.

That the Minister had not thought himself that it was more important to attend the QTU Conference at such a critical time in EB negotiations, rather than attend a European junket – but had to be made by the Premier to

⁴ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 13

⁵ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 13

⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 14

⁷ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 14

Queensland Labor Opposition

attend, is in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition, another reflection of his lack of interest in his portfolio.

MINISTER MISSING IN ACTION

School communities and education stakeholders deserve a Minister who not only has their best interests at heart but is also a visible leader for them. Unfortunately for Queensland, that is not the case with the current Minister.

It was revealed in the hearing that the Minister has failed to attend a series of key stakeholder events; that his name is not on the schedule for the forthcoming Secondary School Principals Conference; and that he did not attend the Primary Principals' Association conference, the Isolated Children's Parents Association conference – and the P&Cs Queensland Conference.

The Minister gave a very long explanation on this, including reference to the fact that it's hard to be at everything.

The P&Cs Queensland conference, from 5-7 June, was held in the Minister's own electorate, with his proxy the Member for Warrego flying in on her own plane to cover for the Minister on the Gold Coast.

The Minister had previously stated he was unable to attend this conference due to a Cultural Ministers' meeting. However, his ministerial diary shows that, although he attended the Ministers meeting in Tasmania on 5-6 June, his diary was free on 7 June – when there was a full program of events at the P&C Conference.

When asked why the Minister failed to attend this key stakeholder event in his own electorate, and provide a reason for his doing so, government members, including the Member for Moggill (and former LNP Shadow Minister for Education, who was not transferred into Cabinet upon coming to government) moved successfully to have the question ruled out of order, via a point of order.

It is understood by the Queensland Labor Opposition that the Minister makes a habit of not attending key stakeholder events and provides limited access to stakeholders. Although the Minister said several times through the hearing that he holds quarterly meetings with stakeholders, his diaries do not appear to reflect this.

In fact, his diaries show most key stakeholders have been afforded only one meeting on their own.

It is widely known in education circles that this Minister did not want the Education portfolio. The Queensland Labor Opposition tabled a Courier Mail article from February 2025 in which the Minister was quoted as saying he didn't care about meeting his KPIs.

The Shadow Minister for Education asked the Minister to verify reports that the Premier had been very upset with him about this and raised it with him in Cabinet and that the Minister had challenged the Premier to sack him. The Minister refuted this.

While the Queensland Labor Opposition note we cannot ascertain the veracity of these claims, it would be deeply disappointing if this was the case – to have a Minister for Education in any jurisdiction who does not care or want to be in his position. It would, however, speak directly to the way in which the government is treating school staff, particularly relating to the current EB negotiations for teachers.

THAT'S NOT FUNNY, DAVID – AND THAT'S NOT BULLYING, MINISTER

During the historic teacher strike, a teacher gave a booklet to the Shadow Minister, asking that it be given to the Premier to convey to him their serious concerns regarding his LNP government's stance on EB negotiations, and the disrespect they feel from the government.

Queensland Labor Opposition

The Shadow Minister made that commitment, tabled a copy for the benefit of the committee during the hearing. The document⁸ read:

“Working nights, weekend and holidays. That’s not funny, David!

Sworn at, hit, kicked and spat at! That’s not funny, David!

No money for resources or support staff. That’s not funny, David!

Thank you Queensland teachers, for all you do. Lowest pay for you, said David!”



EXTRACT OF TABLED PAPER 11

In his response to the Shadow Minister’s question – if he would give the sign to the Premier – the Minister gave a frankly bizarre and would-be laughable response, if it weren’t such a serious matter. The Minister essentially claimed the Premier was a victim of bullying:

“Mr LANGBROEK: I am not sure that that is an appropriate petition in the form that it has come in. I would also say that I think some of these placards in their own way—people should be having a look at the things that they write and the things that they use as diagrams. People have families. In its own way, this can be seen in my view as modern-day bullying. It is all very well to have a message that people want to try to express about their concerns about behaviour and bullying.”⁹

While the Minister later said in a direct question from the Shadow Minister that he was not claiming the Premier was a victim of bullying, his prior statement stands in contrast to that, particularly given the comment *“In its own way, this can be seen in my view as modern-day bullying.”*

This inappropriate comment has understandably drawn considerable attention from Queensland across communities and social media and was reported on by the Courier Mail. The Queensland Labor Opposition stands with teachers in their fight for better from this government who are breaking their election promises and calls on the Minister to apologise for this disgraceful assertion that those teachers who are fighting for what they deserve are somehow participating in *“modern day bullying”*.

In addition, the Minister refused the request by the Shadow Minister to give the booklet to the Premier. However the Queensland Labor Opposition and the Shadow Minister for Education has posted it to the Premier directly.

OCCUPATIONAL VIOLENCE

Occupational violence is one of the most serious issues experienced by school staff scourge in our schools, and forms one of the five interest areas of the EB11 negotiations.

⁸ [Queensland Parliament Estimates - Education, Arts and Communities Committee, Tabled Paper 11](#)

⁹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 21

Queensland Labor Opposition

During the hearing, the Queensland Labor Opposition tabled examples provided by whistleblowers of the scale of incidents occurring in schools, putting the safety of staff and students at risk. The first example shows a screenshot of over 50 incidents that occurred between January and July 2025, showing the seriousness of the situation at just one school.¹⁰

The second document was a statement written for the Minister for Education, by a whistle-blower, which outlines their pleas for help and describing the harm and trauma she has experienced.¹¹

Despite occupational violence being a key issue for schools, and it being one of the five interest areas for the EB negotiations, the Crisafulli LNP Government is failing to address the issue – and in fact, does not even reference occupational violence in their Budget Papers.

Given the Minister's inability to answer the following question directly, it is clear the premise of the question posed by the Shadow Minister was correct:

“Ms FARMER: Minister, is it correct that you are not only in this budget not funding any specific initiatives to combat occupational violence but also it is not considered enough of a priority to even be referenced in the budget papers?”¹²

The claims made by the Minister that he was just about to release an Occupational Violence Strategy indicate that he either thought of it on the moment, or that he was about to release an occupational violence strategy that would not be funded.

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF SCHOOL RESOURCING

The Comprehensive Review of School Resourcing (CRoSR) Review is another of the five interest areas in the EB negotiations and is a vital review commenced by the former Labor Government. The Report was handed to the government in December, over 8 months ago.

During the hearing, the Queensland Labor Opposition asked the Minister how long it will take him to consider this report. Given it has been 8 months and the government have had ample time to consider it, the Queensland Labor Opposition is calling on the government to release the report and ensure it can be implemented in full.

Queensland schools cannot afford more delays from the Crisafulli LNP Government – they need to see this report and its' recommendations, they need to see the government's response to the recommendations, and the Department and the Minister must start work immediately to implement all of the recommendations.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUTH JUSTICE & CRIME PREVENTION SCHOOLS

The Crisafulli LNP Government has made much of the Youth Justice and Crime Prevention Schools, which appear in the Budget of the Minister for Youth Justice, and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Service.

The Minister for Education answered a question about youth justice schools by the Member for Hinchinbrook, saying that these were within the responsibility of Minister Gerber.

However, it appears that neither Minister has attended to the legislative requirements around these schools which, if they are to operate as described by the Crisafulli LNP Government, must achieve accreditation by the independent Non State Schools Accreditation Board as Special Assistance Schools.

¹⁰ [Queensland Parliament Estimates - Education, Arts and Communities Committee, Tabled Paper 12](#)

¹¹ [Queensland Parliament Estimates - Education, Arts and Communities Committee, Tabled Paper 13](#)

¹² https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 23

Queensland Labor Opposition

The *Education (Accreditation of Non State Schools) Act 2017* is clear on the governance requirements for Special Assistance Schools, with compliance and other responsibilities specifically aligned to the Minister for Education.

When asked by the Queensland Labor Opposition whether he was planning on amending this Act, the Minister replied that he wasn't.

When the Shadow Minister explained the legislative context and asked how these could be met if the schools were to remain within the responsibility of the Minister for Youth Justice – it was clear, in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition, that the Minister for Education had no idea at all what was being asked.

That these schools should be such a key part of the Crisafulli LNP Governments' commitments around Community Safety (although only 1 of the 4 Crime Prevention schools has been announced), and the government has clearly not done their homework on how they need to work – is clear evidence that this Crisafulli LNP Government is all about slogans, and simply has not done the work to ensure Queenslanders are getting what they were promised.

ARTS

CENSORSHIP OF THE ARTS

The 2025 estimates hearings provided striking evidence regarding the clear agenda of the Crisafulli LNP Government to censor the Arts in Queensland and threaten the freedoms of expression that represent the very core of a healthy, thriving Arts Sector.

The Arts are a vital channel for self-expression, offering artists of all backgrounds a means to communicate thoughts, emotions and experiences that can often be complex and at times uncomfortable. They serve as a mirror, reflecting cultural values, social issues, and historical moments, allowing the community to be challenged and to better understand its place in the world. It is where the truest forms of creativity are born, and the Queensland Labor Opposition maintains a commitment to fostering that very ideal.

During the Arts estimates hearing, the Queensland Labor Opposition sought answers regarding the actions of the Minister to seemingly restrict and repress artistic expression and individualism, by politically interfering in the outcomes of an independently judged writer's fellowship. The Minister's actions have been described in news reports as an over-reach of his powers and has attracted national and global condemnation.

The Queensland Labor Opposition does not support political interference in long established independent processes for Arts funding or blatant censorship of artistic expression.

The Chief Executive Officer of the State Library, confirmed to the committee that the Minister had personally directed the Library Board to rescind the 2025 black&write! Writing Fellowship which had been awarded following an independent process utilising well regarded and trusted judges. The Chief Executive Officer revealed the reason provided by the Minister in his letter to the Board and the consequent Ministerial direction to the Chief Executive Officer was:

“Ms MCDONALD: “It is my firm view and direction under section 23 of the Libraries Act, and I am sure the view of most Queenslanders, that Ms Wyld should not receive the award in a Queensland government or State Library of Queensland venue”¹³

The Chief Executive Officer went on to confirm that following the Minister's direction to rescind the annual award, 12 Queensland literary award judges resigned, reportedly in protest. The Queensland Labor Opposition notes that the unprecedented number of Queensland Literary Award judges, almost half of the current highly respected judges, is a deeply concerning revelation, not only for the reputation of the

¹³ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 30

Queensland Labor Opposition

black&write! Writing Fellowship but also for the Queensland Literary awards and more broadly for the Arts in Queensland.

When questioned further, the Minister refused to rule out political interference in future awards decided by independent panels of judges, stating:

“Mr LANGBROEK: I will not rule out taking similar action in the future if it is deemed necessary, applying the standards about what we should do in our public institutions”¹⁴.

Further to that, the Minister dismissed the severity of the mass-resignation of judges following the awards rescindment:

“Mr LANGBROEK: “If they choose not to be judges, we will find other judges,”¹⁵.

The Queensland Labor Opposition believes the message the Minister is conveying through the decision to override an independent panel of judges and censor artists based not on the work submitted but on their past comments, actions and relationships will have a profound impact on the reputation of the Arts in Queensland. The issue has been widely reported, with articles in an array of media outlets including the Courier Mail and Brisbane Times highlighting the biggest mass-resignation of Queensland Literary Award Judges the State Librarian has ever witnessed.

ERASING FIRST NATIONS ART AND CULTURE

The Queensland Labor Opposition is deeply disappointed by the Minister’s decision to cut the progression of two First Nations Cultural Centres without consulting key stakeholders including Tourism experts and bodies, Arts Statutory bodies, Southbank Corporation, Cairns Regional Council and First Nations people.

Significant work was undertaken over many years, by a vast number of stakeholders to produce business cases for the centres at a cost to taxpayers. The Queensland Labor Opposition believes that the Minister’s decision represents the loss of a once in generation opportunity based on cultural bias.

When questioned on the consultation undertaken prior to the Minister’s decision to abandon these long called for Cultural Centres, the Director-General advised the committee:

“Ms SCHIMMING: “I believe the decision was actually part of the budget process. Decision-making is very different from consultation,”¹⁶.

The Minister was unable to answer the question when it was put to him, instead blaming the former Labor Government and past attempts by stakeholders to establish cultural centres for his decision rather than addressing the issue with accountability and transparency.

It is evident through the lack of consultation and complete disregard for key projects such as the First Nations Cultural Centres that the Crisafulli LNP Government has little to no regard for the role of First Nations people in Queensland’s collective cultural value.

Unfortunately, these sentiments were echoed once again through the decision of the Arts Minister to overturn the decision of the QPAC board and mount a competition to change the name of the new QPAC Performing Arts Venue.

The Labor Queensland Opposition questioned the QPAC Chief Executive Officer Ms Rachel Healy who revealed that the QPAC board had originally determined that the new theatre should be named after a prominent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person. The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that the

¹⁴ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 32

¹⁵ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 32

¹⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 36

Queensland Labor Opposition

Board through its chair had written to the then Director-General in late 2024 suggesting four individuals with their preference being highly regarded Aboriginal poet and activist Oodgeroo Noonuccal:

*MS HEALY: "It is correct in that the letter that went to the director-general noted the inclusion of a range of names and that one stood out in the committee's view and that was of Oodgeroo Noonuccal."*¹⁷

Further, Ms Healy advised the committee that the decision to veto the board's original proposal sat with the Minister.

When asked why a potential First Nations name had not been included in the voting options of the Minister's competition? Ms Healy responded that it was:

*MS HEALY: "a matter for the department and for the Minister".*¹⁸

Ms Healy also advised that during the public voting for the Minister's competition:

*"Ms HEALY: "Community members could nominate alternative names and that is what occurred and that there were a number of First Nations names put forward as part of the public voting,"*¹⁹

The Queensland Labor Opposition recognises that the Crisafulli LNP Government's desire to erase and suppress First Nations culture is not representative of the views of Queenslanders.

The Minister agreed to releasing all data and submissions from the naming poll in Question on Notice No.511, and the Queensland Labor Opposition urges the Minister to publish this as soon as possible, in the name of transparency.

Whilst the actions of the Minister and the Crisafulli LNP Government are deeply disappointing and completely disregard the unique importance two of the oldest surviving cultures in history have, the Queensland Labor Opposition will continue to support First Nations Queenslanders and press forward with advocacy, respect, and compassion.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS

WATER AND WHAT ELSE?

The Queensland Labor Opposition acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout our wonderful state. The traditional owners of the lands on which we are so lucky to live. We recognise the responsibility we all have to push forward in Closing the Gap, and we take this responsibility seriously.

That is why the Queensland Labor Opposition is deeply concerned by the performance of the Minister throughout the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Estimates hearing.

The Minister appeared to stall significantly when answering questions from the committee, seemingly unable to provide clear and direct responses to at times simple yes or no questions. The Minister also attempted to argue back to the committee, wasting significant amounts of time to avoid answering more questions.

Not only was the experience deeply frustrating for committee members, but it highlighted, in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition, that the Minister lacked portfolio knowledge and refused to be transparent with Queenslanders in her answers.

The Queensland Labor Opposition believes it is important to note that everybody deserves access to clean, safe, drinking water. It's a human right. We recognise the work of the government to provide this to the

¹⁷ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 33

¹⁸ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 33

¹⁹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 33

Queensland Labor Opposition

discrete Aboriginal Community Council areas of Aurukun, and Kowanyama and the role of the Federal Labor government in supporting the government's water project in Woorabinda. It's this belief that underscored the previous Labor government's investment of over \$180 million over a seven year period for water infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities including \$62 million announced just last year in partnership with the federal Labor government.

However, the concerns of the Queensland Labor Opposition stem from the Minister's inability to speak on any other topic apart from water infrastructure. The Courier Mail reported that the Minister said the word 'water' 33 times throughout the hearing and whilst it is agreed that clean drinking water is vital, the Minister's fixation on water resulted in a blatant lack of portfolio knowledge in other areas.

The Minister was unable to provide real time data on questions relating to other Closing the Gap targets including Target 12 and Target 11, instead providing twelve-month-old data dated June 2024.

As the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and the only Minister responsible for achieving Closing the Gap targets, the Queensland Labor Opposition is greatly concerned by the Minister not having access to timely and up-to-date data relating to Closing the Gap targets.

Further to this, the Queensland Labor Opposition sought answers as to why the Minister has not met with the Queensland Coalition of Peaks, which is directly linked to priority reform area 2 of the Closing the Gap agreement and highlights a lack of vital stakeholder engagement.

The Queensland Labor Opposition notes that meaningful policy to support the progression of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples stems directly from engaging with community and the Minister's disregard for this resulted in 90 minutes of long-winded answers about water infrastructure.

CLOSING THE GAP PRIORITIES FUND

The Queensland Labor Opposition is incredibly alarmed to discover that \$37 million of the \$108 million Closing the Gap Priorities fund had been expended without the use of any formal guidelines or criteria. The Director-General outlined for the first time that this expenditure was tranche one of the fund, there was no funding criteria to assist with how that money was allocated. When questioned about the decision-making process the Minister stated:

"Ms SIMPSON: I recommended the projects to government for consideration based on the feedback I had received,"²⁰

Funding criterions provide a safety net of accountability for governments and ensure that there are clear decision-making processes that can be understood by external sources and can withstand political interference.

Without criteria and/or guidelines, taxpayer funds can be perceived as nothing more than the Crisafulli LNP Government's personal slush fund. The Queensland Labor Opposition believes that without a clear funding criterion the Minister lacks transparency, as those recommendations were made solely by her, based on private conversations and personal preferences.

Millions of dollars have already been allocated to projects through this method, despite these types of infrastructure projects typically being funded within their relevant departments such as Department of Water and Local Government and Department of Education.

Guidelines for the second tranche of funding are still being developed and whilst the Queensland Labor Opposition is relieved to know there will be some form of criteria for the Minister to follow moving forward,

²⁰ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 49

Queensland Labor Opposition

the Queensland Labor Opposition hold reservations regarding the ability of the Minister to achieve Closing the Gap targets given almost a third of the funding has already been allocated for just four projects.

STAFFING CUTS

Finally, the Queensland Labor Opposition notes that there has been a significant reduction in the number of staff working under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander section of the department, which is deeply concerning. The Director-General was able to advise the committee that there are 198.76 FTEs in the department, with the SDS reporting 412 FTEs in the 2024-25 annual year, inclusive of Strategic Policy and Legislation, which is noted to serve the whole department.

If the Crisafulli LNP Government is committed to promoting the needs of First Nations Queenslanders, reducing the public service department that assists them is not going to achieve that.

The Queensland Labor Opposition is concerned that the hidden reduction is not only disingenuous but disrespectful to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities the Minister represents.

WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY

The Crisafulli LNP Government's first budget is a budget of broken promises to Queensland women and girls.

Throughout the examination of the 2025-26 portfolio estimates hearing for Women, it was once again made clear that when the Crisafulli LNP Government says something, it means nothing.

The importance of women and girls across Queensland being economically secure cannot be understated. But what this Crisafulli LNP Government has demonstrated is a lack of awareness and a refusal to listen to Queensland women on the barriers that really impact their ability to be empowered in their work, communities and lives.

These barriers include access to healthcare, wellbeing and mental health support, barriers to progress in their careers, obtain and hold positions of leadership, thrive in male dominated careers, fully participate in our economy, be safe and free from harassment at work, be safe and free from intimate partner violence, the many increased demands on women as mothers, caregivers, and the fundamental truth that gender equality has not been achieved in Queensland.

Yet the Crisafulli LNP Government is more pre-occupied with themselves than listening to what women and girls are saying.

The Crisafulli LNP Government remembered to rebrand what was previously known as the Women's Budget Statement to LNP blue but forgot to include the words 'gender equality', or is it possible this was deliberately excluded? Either way, this budget demonstrates how out of touch the Crisafulli LNP Government is with women and girls.

WOMEN AND GIRLS' HEALTH STRATEGY

The Queensland Labor Opposition holds significant reservations on the implementation of the Women and Girls Health Strategy. Premier David Crisafulli said, *"I reiterate very clearly that the Women and Girls' Health Strategy will be funded, and it will be funded in full."*²¹

During the portfolio estimates hearing, it was unpacked that publicly funded IVF for women with complex medical conditions has not commenced, despite the program due to start on 1 July and a \$42M investment from the previous government. Therefore, this highlights another broken promise from the Crisafulli LNP

²¹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_05_21_WEEKLY.pdf Page 1324

Queensland Labor Opposition

Government and encapsulates that when the Premier and the LNP Government says something it means nothing.

When questioned regarding the Crisafulli LNP Government's decision, it was incredibly concerning that the Minister for Women replied:

"Ms SIMPSON: ...I cannot answer questions in detail..."²²

The Queensland Labor Opposition holds significant reservations surrounding the obfuscation of details and the inability of the Minister for Women to answer key questions that matter to Queensland women and that are outlined in the 2025-26 equivalent of the Women's Budget Statement.

We know that women and girls face a range of unique health challenges over their lifespan, which have a significant impact on their wellbeing, economic empowerment, job security and so much more.

Over 12,000 women and girls across Queensland shared their experience and had the opportunity for government to hear their voices through consultation on the Women and Girl's Health Strategy under the Labor. The Queensland Labor Opposition is deeply disappointed to see the Crisafulli LNP Government disregard women and girls' feedback in this way. It demonstrates how out of touch the government is with Queensland women and girls.

Due to the time constraints of the portfolio estimates hearing, the Queensland Labor Opposition was unable to further pursue questioning and ensure that all existing funding to programs provided for women, whether it be under the Women and Girls Health Strategy, or funding provided by the Office for Women.

TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

The Minister failed to answer questions about Termination of Pregnancy in Queensland.

Consequentially, the Queensland Labor Opposition holds significant reservations when it comes to improving access, support and resources for to Termination of Pregnancy, particularly given the Crisafulli LNP Government's decision to stifle and restrict the Queensland Parliament on discussing abortion or passing any new improvements to legislation for Termination of Pregnancy.

This breaks the government's promise to increase transparency and accountability.

REMOVAL OF GENDER EQUALITY

During the portfolio estimates hearing it was exposed that the words 'gender equality' were removed from the SDS for the Office for Women and the Crisafulli LNP Government's equivalent of the Women's Economic Security Statement.

"Ms FENTIMAN: Director-General, I refer to page 3 of the SDS, and I table a copy of the relevant Office for Women page of the SDS from the previous year's budget papers. I am happy for it to make its way to you. Can I ask: why were the words 'gender equality' removed from the SDS description for the Office for Women in this year's budget?"

Ms WILDE: In relation to the drafting of the SDS, this was something that we did in combination with reviewing the minister's charter letter as well as other whole-of-government documents. In relation to the wording that is in the current SDS, that was something for which approval was sought, as it is traditionally done, with the relevant minister's office."²³

²² https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf Page 65

²³ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf Page 71

Queensland Labor Opposition

The Queensland Labor Opposition, holds significant reservations that the shift in the Crisafulli LNP Government's priorities away from gender equality, will see Queensland stagnate on the path to achieve a gender equal future.

RESPECT AT WORK LAWS

The Queensland Labor Opposition remains concerned that the Crisafulli LNP Government has indefinitely paused the Respect at Laws, which keep women and girls safe from harassment in the workplace.

Despite the Queensland Labor Opposition raising data from the Australian Human Rights Commission demonstrating that women are more likely to be impacted by harassment at work, the Minister refused to clearly outline what steps she had taken to advocate for these important reforms.

With regards to these laws, the Queensland Labor Opposition once again is deeply concerned that the LNP Government are refusing to listen to experts, the data and what women and girls are voicing, when it comes to being free from harassment and safe in the workplace.

Instead, it appears they have caved to internal pressure from views in their party room, showing that the LNP is more pre-occupied with themselves. The Crisafulli LNP Government continues to be so out of touch with women in Queensland.

Other issues were unable to be canvassed in full due to the limited time provided for opposition questioning and the constant interference ran by the LNP Government Members in the form of points of order. These include the scrapping of the Special Commissioner for Equity and Diversity, funding to existing programs under the Office for Women and the limited number of women who will benefit from the singular new initiative the Crisafulli LNP Government have introduced for women.

Ultimately, the portfolio estimates for Women further exposed the cracks in the Crisafulli LNP Government.

It is the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition that the Minister was unable to answer questions, hiding detail and refusing to answer questions, with government members running such strict and unreasonable interference to prevent from the scrutiny of the 2025-26 Budget, and for Queensland women and girls to learn the truth about where the government's priorities really lie.

The answers which were provided further highlight the Crisafulli LNP Government's broken promises to Queensland women.

They broke their promise to honour all initiatives in the Women and Girl's Health Strategy as originally planned.

They broke their promise on openness, transparency and accountability, and most importantly, they broke their promise to listen.

They have failed to listen to Queensland women.

The Crisafulli LNP Government have shown once again, the LNP remain so out of touch with women and girls.

MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

GRANTS

The Queensland Labor Opposition understands the important contribution our wonderfully diverse multicultural communities make to our State. We are so fortunate to live in a place that fosters diversity and inclusion, and we recognise the important role the Government has in in bolstering and supporting multicultural groups and organisations throughout Queensland.

Queensland Labor Opposition

The Queensland Labor Opposition holds concerns over the Crisafulli LNP Government's limited investment and policy initiatives for culturally and linguistically diverse groups following the Multiculturalism Estimates hearing. What became apparent throughout the hearing was the Minister for Multiculturalism's lack of knowledge and consideration into the development of key policy areas for the portfolio.

PROGRAM FUNDING

The Queensland Labor Opposition notes that the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland program, which was initially a strong Labor Government grant program was promoted to open applications on 1 June 2025, however, did not open until 21 July 2025, a significant delay of seven weeks.

Timeframes for applications were also reduced with the Minister stating:

***MS SIMPSON:** "There was a two-week reduction in the timing from that contained in the previous guidelines, and applicants were advised that that was occurring. That was in order to deliver guidelines that very much reflected the feedback from multicultural communities."*²⁴

Given the limited changes to the guidelines as confirmed by the Director-General, it is not clear why these delays needed to occur.

This also stood in stark contrast with recommendations made by the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ) Report into the Sustainability of *Multicultural Organisations in Queensland* released earlier this year. The report specifically calls for longer application time frames to ensure multicultural groups have ample opportunity to apply for grants.

Further to this, the Queensland Labor Opposition revealed that no modelling had been done by the department regarding project uptake of the \$5 million Multicultural Connect Grant Program intended to assist with upgrades and purchases of multicultural community group facilities. The department was unable to provide a list of multicultural organisations that owned their own facilities as the Director-General stated:

***MS WILDE:** "From the conversations with the people, I have been talking to, they are organisations that own their own facilities. I will confer with my colleague so that I can potentially answer the question now. The department does not have a register or the details about the ownership of various properties."*²⁵

While the Queensland Labor Opposition recognises the importance of grant programs for multicultural groups, we hold concerns that the Multicultural Connect Grant program will have limited impact for many communities due to the expensive nature of facility upgrades or capital purchases and the exclusion of smaller groups that do not own facilities or are able to purchase them.

The grants which will be a one-off payment of between \$10,000 and \$500,000 and with only \$5 million allocated over four years, the Queensland Labor Opposition believes this funding will lack the necessary impact as only a small number of groups will have access to enough of the funding to support tangible upgrades and purchases.

The Queensland Labor Opposition also holds concerns that the Minister has not sought advice for further funding for the Strengthening Multicultural Queensland grant program, the Director-General advised the committee,

²⁴ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf Page 55

²⁵ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf Page 55

Queensland Labor Opposition

MS WILDE: *“To finalise my answer to your question, member, as I mentioned earlier, these programs are heavily oversubscribed, as you have also identified. The department has not provided specific advice in relation to additional funding, if that was what your question was in relation to.”*²⁶

Despite knowing that 85% of grant applicants for the 2024-25 round were not approved the Minister has not sought advice through the department for an expansion of the popular Program. The Queensland Labor Opposition recognises this as the Crisafulli LNP Government’s determination to not support multicultural community groups that undertake impactful projects in our State.

The Queensland Labor Opposition holds deep concerns that the cornerstone funding made available by the Crisafulli LNP Government omits a significant portion of groups and organisations and the Crisafulli LNP Government’s inability to recognise this highlights a lack of insight and interest.

MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS QUEENSLAND - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Over the past few years, it is clear that the current geopolitical climate has seen escalations across the globe resulting in a potential decline in social cohesion. Being an incredibly diverse state, Queensland has relied on the valued work of Multicultural Affairs Queensland to gather direct community insights on issues which may be affecting social cohesion.

This work has been undertaken throughout the State by the community engagement team within Multicultural Affairs Queensland. The Queensland Labor Opposition was concerned to uncover that there are only four FTEs working within that team, despite the significant importance and requirements of their work.

The Queensland Labor Opposition notes that when the Minister was called on to commit to expanding the team which would greatly assist with fostering social cohesion across the state, the Minister was unable to provide a direct answer to the committee.

The Minister’s inability to provide concise and direct information raised concerns for the Queensland Labor Opposition. As part of the Minister’s answer about Multicultural Affairs Queensland, she listed information about the Peace Leadership Program, Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT) and asylum seeker and refugee assistance, all of which whilst funded by Government are provided by external service providers.²⁷

Whilst the Minister was quick to herald the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance (ASRA) Program and the work being undertaken by QPASTT, when questioned further she described these programs as having a “limited life” under the Crisafulli LNP Government.

MS SIMPSON: *“As I understand, it is limited-life funding, but it was in response to a gap in services that was found between what the federal government was doing and where there were real needs in community.”*²⁸

Despite happily touting the programs’ importance, in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition, it is clear that the Minister did not believe they were important enough to continue beyond this financial year.

Multicultural communities throughout Queensland deserve accountability, transparency and honesty, and the estimates hearing for Multiculturalism highlighted the Minister is unable to afford that to the communities she represents.

²⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 56

²⁷ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 57

²⁸ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 61

Queensland Labor Opposition

ACCOUNTABILITY

Finally, the Queensland Labor Opposition believes it is important to note a clear lack of accountability or interest exhibited by the Minister throughout the estimates hearing process. When questioned on Community Hubs throughout Queensland that specifically support culturally and linguistically diverse communities, the Minister stated,

MS SIMPSON: *“This is actually in the portfolio of the Minister for Education. I do not recall whether the funding applications were actually put to the minister in that portfolio,”*²⁹

The Minister went on to say:

MS SIMPSON: *“I have had engagement with them, and I referred them to the correct portfolio.”*³⁰

Whilst current funding may fall outside of the realm of the multiculturalism portfolio, the Queensland Labor Opposition holds grave concerns that the Minister would absolve her responsibility for the communities that benefit from the many hubs across this state.

If there are funding shortfalls, multicultural communities throughout Queensland would expect the Minister for Multiculturalism to support and advocate on their behalf to other Cabinet Ministers, but this has clearly not been done.

The Queensland Labor Opposition will continue to advocate for the multicultural communities who are integral to our State’s economic and social progress, and we expect the Crisafulli LNP Government to do more for the betterment of culturally and linguistically diverse communities and individuals in Queensland.

CHILD SAFETY

Despite core child protection election promises being underfunded, or simply unfunded altogether, the biggest issue identified throughout the examination of the Crisafulli LNP Government’s first Child Safety budget is the reliance on the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland’s Child Safety system to deliver an all-encompassing solution, with seemingly no regard to delivering for children currently in care now.

Following the announcement of the 17-month long Commission of Inquiry into in May 2025, stakeholders across the sector shared one consistent concern with the Queensland Labor Opposition: what is the Crisafulli LNP Government doing to support vulnerable children across the state while the inquiry is underway?

Similar concerns have been shared by stakeholders publicly, too. In an ABC Radio interview on 1 July, Chief Executive Officer of PeakCare Tom Allsop spoke about the need for action while the inquiry is underway:

*“What we need to ensure is that while the focus of this inquiry will be on how to build a better system for the children of tomorrow, we need government to also be focused on how to build a better system for the children in state care today.”*³¹

Only days prior, Luke Twyford, Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC), was quoted in an ABC News article with a similar sentiment:

*“He [Luke Twyford] said he wants to see ‘bold’ and ‘innovative policy reform’ from the inquiry while it is being conducted, adding the ‘current system is not fit for purpose’.”*³²

²⁹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 60

³⁰ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 60

³¹ ABC Sunshine Coast, 1 July 2025. Interview with Tom Allsop, CEO of PeakCare.

³² ABC News, 30 June 2025. Residential care workers call for independent complaints system amid fear of reprisal for speaking out.

Queensland Labor Opposition

Katherine Hayes, CEO of the Youth Advocacy Centre, addressed the issue in an article published on the day of this committee's Estimates hearing:

*"These kids cannot wait for the outcome of the current Child Safety Commission — the government must act now."*³³

Throughout the approximately 30 minutes of non-government questioning allocated for the Child Safety portfolio, the Queensland Labor Opposition have proven that this sector-wide concern is valid.

ROADMAP FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE IN QUEENSLAND

In 2023, the former Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services undertook a review of the Queensland residential care system, with advice and independent oversight provided by QFCC Principal Commissioner Luke Twyford.

More than 800 stakeholders were consulted throughout the review, resulting in a five-year plan designed in partnership with the sector. Released in February 2024, the Roadmap contained 31 key actions to reshape residential care, such as the development of a workforce strategy.

In December 2024, the QFCC published a report on the progress made against the Queensland Residential Care Roadmap. The report identified that *"with a change of Government there is a clear opportunity to revisit the implementation timing, priorities and scope for many of the worthy actions in the Roadmap – however ultimately we must ensure that those with the power to change the system, take action."*³⁴

The Principal Commissioner concluded the report by proposing to *"...continue my [sic] oversight of the Residential Care system, drawing on the Roadmap and the advice I have given about it, as well as the Governments election commitments."*³⁵

In what could be described as an affront to all those in the sector involved in shaping the Roadmap, the Minister commented on the Roadmap in her opening Statement, setting the tone for the remainder of the hearing:

*"Ms CAMM: ...I have torn up Labor's Residential Care Roadmap that was, quite frankly, a road to nowhere..."*³⁶

Only days after the Commission of Inquiry was announced, ABC News published an article titled *"As Queensland launches yet another child safety inquiry, what's going to be different about this one?"*, in which the National Children's Commissioner, Anne Hollands, was quoted saying *"we have looked at these issues again and again and it's time to act on the evidence."*³⁷

This would prove true on the morning of the Estimates hearing when the Courier Mail published an article revealing that *"...dangerous predators may be among those caring for thousands of children in state residential care - but the government wouldn't know as it doesn't have a list of individuals working in the system."*³⁸ The Minister was quoted in the article, sharing the intention *"...to move all providers to the licenced model."*

However, it was revealed by the Queensland Labor Opposition that a solution had already been published 5 months prior in a report commissioned by the department, funded through an action of the now "torn-up" Residential Care Roadmap. The *Insights and Opportunities* report identified the opportunity to implement a

³³ [ABC News, 7 August 2025, Boy's suicide in residential care home should 'jolt' child safety department into action, advocates say.](#)

³⁴ [Queensland Family and Child Commission, December 2024, Too little too late - the progress made against the Queensland Residential Care Roadmap, page 3.](#)

³⁵ [Ibid, page 45.](#)

³⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf, page 74

³⁷ [ABC News, 21 May 2025, As Queensland launches yet another child safety inquiry, what's going to be different about this one?](#)

³⁸ [The Courier Mail, 7 August 2025, Revealed: Major gaps in Qld child safety worker oversight system.](#)

residential care worker register to provide additional accountability and oversight of those working within the child protection system similar.

The Queensland Labor Opposition would caution against such hubris and encourages the Crisafulli LNP Government to act on the existing evidence-based recommendations that are supported by the sector.

SAFER CHILDREN, SAFER COMMUNITIES

Central to the Crisafulli LNP Government's pre-election child safety commitments was the \$383 million *Safer Children, Safer Communities* plan (the plan) which included a new 24-hour dual carer supervision model for Residential Care, a boost to Child Safety Officer (CSO) numbers, a pilot program for professional foster carers for kids with complex needs, and an independent complaints process, among other promises.

Yet despite the \$383 million election costing it was revealed that the first Crisafulli LNP Government budget provided only \$164.1 million over four years to deliver the plan.

Child Safety Officer Uplift and Frontline Support Roles

When first announced, the Courier Mail reported the *Safer Children, Safer Communities* plan "...includes boosting the number of child safety officers by 20 per cent, above attrition, by the end of its first term in government at a cost of \$69.75m."³⁹ The Director-General confirmed in the hearing that a 20% uplift represents an additional 254.2 CSO FTEs.

In conflict with the initial timeline, in response to Question on Notice 700 of 2025, the Minister advised "...the Government's *Safer Children, Safer Communities* plan will boost the number of Child Safety officers supporting vulnerable children by 20 per cent by 2030."⁴⁰ To further muddy the waters, pre-hearing Question on Notice response 1C provided a schedule for the 254.2 CSO FTEs to be rolled out over four years to 30 June 2028.⁴¹

When the Queensland Labor Opposition sought clarity from the Director-General on these inconsistencies, the Director-General made no comment on the shifting dates, but instead revealed issues with the Crisafulli LNP Government's pre-election costings:

*"Ms DREW: ...I can clarify that the media article that was referred to that articulated a \$69.75 million investment was a costing related to the now government's pre-election costings and that the figure of \$77.6 million provided in question on notice No. 1 is a figure that has subsequently been done by the department once the full appraisal of the actual budget measure was known."*⁴²

Further inconsistencies were identified in the planned implementation of this uplift. Pre-hearing Question on Notice response 1C detailed an allocation of 100 additional CSO FTEs in 2025-26.⁴³ However, comparison of departmental data provided by the Minister in Questions on Notice 813 of 2025 and 834 of 2025 only shows an additional 3.6 full-time equivalent child safety officer positions Budgeted in 2025-26, compared to the 2024-25 Estimated Actuals.^{44,45}

The original *Safer Children, Safer Communities* plan was also absent of any commitment to deliver an uplift in roles that support child safety officers' frontline service delivery, such as Child Safety Case Workers, Legal, Paralegal and Court Liaison Officers, and Other Frontline and Frontline Support Roles.

³⁹ [The Courier Mail, 2 September 2024, LNP's multimillion-dollar promise to reform entire system](#)

⁴⁰ [Legislative Assembly of Queensland, 2025, Question on Notice No. 700, asked on 12 June 2025](#)

⁴¹ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/DFSDESCS.pdf>

⁴² https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 103

⁴³ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/DFSDESCS.pdf>

⁴⁴ [Legislative Assembly of Queensland, 2025, Question on Notice No. 813, asked on 26 June 2025](#)

⁴⁵ [Legislative Assembly of Queensland, 2025, Question on Notice No. 834, asked on 26 June 2025](#)

Queensland Labor Opposition

Understanding the importance of these roles, the Queensland Labor Opposition used the estimates hearing to confirm that these critical positions originally overlooked by the now Crisafulli LNP Government would be delivered on.

“Ms McMILLAN: Director-General, has the department undertaken any modelling to determine the required uplift of these particular support positions as a result of the 20 per cent uplift in CSOs?”

Ms Drew: The department undertakes a range of workforce planning across all of the roles related to child safety. That includes taking a look, as well, at the particular needs of each of our regions because as the member would well know, delivering child safety services here in the south-east corner is very different from delivering those services in Mount Isa. In terms of specific modelling, yes, we undertake data analysis on a regular basis to support our forward planning for CSOs and other support staff.

Ms McMILLAN: Director-General, has money been allocated across the forwards for all of these FTEs?

Ms Drew: Yes.”⁴⁶

The Queensland Labor Opposition will continue to advocate for the proper resourcing of roles that support frontline service delivery and will hold the government accountable for this commitment.

Given the commitments to staff uplift, implementation of a Residential Care Workforce Strategy must be funded and delivered as priority. It was therefore expected that funding would be allocated in the budget for this, but there was no mention of this within the Budget Papers.

The Queensland Labor Opposition therefore sought an update on progress PeakCare’s Residential Care Workforce Strategy, funded by the former Labor government. In responding to pre-hearing Question on Notice 2, the Minister indicated that the Residential Care Workforce Strategy is not yet finalised and was unable to confirm that the strategy and Government response would be made.⁴⁷

Safer Children, Safer Communities: Independent Complaints Process

In an ABC News interview on 4 July 2025, Minister Camm was questioned about an independent complaints process, which formed part of the *Safer Children, Safer Communities* plan:

“INTERVIEWER: What about an independent complaints process? Do you remain committed to that?”

MINISTER CAMM: I absolutely am committed to that. That was the number one issue that I heard in my four years as a Shadow Minister was that the current complaints process is not independent. The department investigates itself and that to me is unacceptable.”⁴⁸

Although the Minister acknowledged this as the number one issue she heard in her time as Shadow Minister, the Crisafulli LNP Government’s first budget, handed down only 10 days before this interview was published, included no funding for the promised complaints process. This was identified by the Shadow Minister for Child Safety in her budget reply speech on 26 June.

Given the absence of any funding for this promise, it was surprising when the Minister raised the matter through the hearing, in response to a question from a government member:

⁴⁶ [https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf_page 82](https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf_page%2082)

⁴⁷ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/DFSDSCS.pdf>

⁴⁸ ABC News, 4 July 2025, [Queensland’s Child Safety Minister says residential care has failed children | ABC NEWS](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-04/queensland-child-safety-minister-says-residential-care-has-failed-children/104111110)

Queensland Labor Opposition

“Ms CAMM: ...As part of the terms of reference of the commission of inquiry, we have asked the commission to review and provide recommendations on the best design for an independent complaints process.”⁴⁹

The terms of reference set out in the Minister’s 18 May 2025 media statement make no explicit mention of an independent complaints process.⁵⁰ It is expected that the Minister would instead consider this captured within the “broad nature” of the terms of reference.

The Minister’s contribution was, however, consistent with the response provided to pre-hearing Question on Notice 3. The response went further, and provided the clearest timeline to date:

“...Delivery of a new independent complaints and escalation review process, including future funding considerations, will be informed by the outcomes of the Commission of Inquiry, subject to future government consideration.”⁵¹

Despite the Minister’s own admission of the importance of this issue, and despite making a commitment ahead of the election, those most impacted by this will now have to wait for the outcomes of the 17-month long Commission of Inquiry, and subsequent budget considerations before progress is made on the Crisafulli LNP Government’s promise.

Safer Children, Safer Communities: 24-hour Dual Carer Model

Ahead of the election, now Premier Crisafulli announced that “...a Crisafulli LNP Government would deliver a new dual carer model with two carers working at Residential Care facilities 24hrs [sic] a day,” and that “...all Residential Care facilities would be working with the new dual carer model by end of 2030.”⁵²

The Minister addressed this commitment in the hearing, speaking about the investment in the budget:

“Ms CAMM: ...As part of our Safer Children, Safer Communities plan, we have made a commitment in this budget to reform the residential care system by adequately funding a 24-hour dual-carer supervision model of care with \$2.9 million this year from a total of \$10.9 million over four years. We have established an operational working group to support planning and be informed by the sector and potentially the outcomes of the commission of inquiry.”⁵³

Budget Paper 4 reveals that the funded measure is not entirely consistent with the pre-election claims. Despite promises that all residential care facilities would move to the new model, the funding allocation is exclusively for a framework for therapeutic residential care services.

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

In January 2025, Queensland’s foster and kinship carers saw their annual allowance rise just 1.8 per cent, the lowest increase four years, and equating to only \$5.90 per week. Under the former Labor Government, the allowance increased 17 per cent in the three years prior.⁵⁴

The Minister has been clear that the government’s priority is for children to be placed in family-based care, and carers were rightfully expecting additional support following the dismal allowance rise at the start of the year. Although expecting more from foster and kinship carers, the Crisafulli LNP Government unfortunately delivered no additional funding for the carer allowance in the budget.

⁴⁹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf, page 79

⁵⁰ <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/102583>.

⁵¹ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/DFSDSCS.pdf>

⁵² <https://online.lnp.org.au/dave-crisafulli/news/safer-children-safer-communities-policy>

⁵³ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf, page 78

⁵⁴ [The Courier Mail, 24 November 2024. Qld foster carers' allowance increase a measly 1.8pc.](#)

Queensland Labor Opposition

Notably, on the same day, the Minns New South Wales Labor Government Budget delivered \$143.9 million to increase the foster care allowance by 20 per cent.⁵⁵ The Queensland Labor Opposition calls on the Crisafulli LNP Government to commit to properly supporting foster and kinship carers facing cost of living pressures.

FAMILIES

COST OF LIVING MEASURES

Low-income households will be in a worse position under this budget.

The ongoing cost-of-living pressures continues to affect more Queenslanders with the most vulnerable members of our community experiencing even greater hardship. Community organisations and frontline workers are under increasing pressure, and long-term sustainability and funding certainty for the sector is more critical than ever.

The cost-of-living concessions provided by the LNP 2025-26 budget has declined from 2024-25. Concessions such as rebates and discounts are vital mechanisms for delivering targeted support to those on low incomes and experiencing financial distress. Any reduction in such support risks undermining relief efforts for the most disadvantaged Queenslanders.

The community services sector plays a key role in building financial capacity and assisting those facing financial hardship. Financial literacy remains essential to achieving long-term economic empowerment for Queenslanders. Clear commitment from the Crisafulli LNP Government is needed regarding the permanency and sustainability of funding the Queensland Financial Resilience Program.

Persistent waitlists for financial counselling services demonstrate a clear need for expanded access to the Financial Resilience Program. These areas must not be overlooked if we are to support resilient and financially capable Queenslanders.

Emergency Relief (ER) services, such as food and financial assistance, are under continued strain. While funding continuation is positive, the lack of a significant increase will limit the capacity of neighbourhood and community centres to respond to rising demand. There is a clear need for additional and ongoing ER funding. This can be used to support infrastructure such as storage and refrigeration which would enable local organisations to expand their food relief operations.

The Queensland Labor Opposition is pleased the Crisafulli LNP Government has committed to continue the Labor initiative of the \$200 FairPlay Vouchers – rebranded as PlayOn! It was the Labor government that raised these vouchers to \$200 to keep up with rising club membership fees, acknowledging the cost-of-living pressure that households were facing.

SENIORS AND DISABILITY SERVICES

SENIORS COST-OF-LIVING SHORTFALL

The Queensland Labor Opposition is committed to ensuring all Queenslanders get the cost-of-living relief they need. It was a key pillar of the former Labor Government's political ethos, and it is something we continue to advocate for in opposition.

The Queensland Labor Opposition notes that both the Minister and Director-General were unable to advise the committee of any new cost-of-living relief for seniors living in Queensland. As some of the most vulnerable members of society, it's vital that Older Queenslanders are provided with the support needed to

⁵⁵ [The Daily Telegraph, 24 June 2025. Historic \\$1.2b child protection overhaul boosts foster carer pay.](#)

Queensland Labor Opposition

live fulfilled lives. Under the former Labor Government, thanks to \$1000 energy rebates and reduced car registration, Queensland seniors were better off.

Further to this point, when questioned about cost-of-living relief, the Minister raised the issue of the GP Tax, claiming:

“MS CAMM: “...seniors were not going to the doctor because of the risk and cost impost on them,”⁵⁶.

The Queensland Labor Opposition finds it extremely disappointing that when presented with the opportunity to provide an update on the work of the Crisafulli LNP Government to protect and support Queensland seniors, the Crisafulli LNP Government in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition spread disinformation to the committee and smear of the former government with false rhetoric.

Without any new funding for seniors’ cost-of-living relief the only thing the Crisafulli LNP Government can do is deflect and attack. It is the hallmark of a government stuck in the opposition mind frame.

PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

When it comes to the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Crisafulli LNP Government promised to reduce victim numbers, including victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

The Queensland Labor Opposition holds significant reservations this budget does not appropriately address what has been labelled “a devastating surge in domestic and family violence” in Queensland.⁵⁷

Instead, the Crisafulli LNP Government delivered a budget of broken promises, that fails on a number of fronts. This budget breaks the LNP’s promise to listen to the experts, increase accountability and transparency of government.

The Queensland Labor Opposition is gravely concerned the summation of these broken promises’ places increased risk to the safety of victim-survivors of, domestic, family and sexual violence, and fails to address the increase in domestic and family violence in Queensland.

INDEPENDENT IMPLEMENTATION SUPERVISOR

A key recommendation of the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce (the taskforce) was the establishment of an Independent Implementation Supervisor to publicly report on the progress of reforms arising from the Hear her Voice Reports 1 and 2, and the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police responses to domestic and family violence (the inquiry). This role ensured transparency, accountability, and public confidence in the Government’s implementation of the recommendations from the taskforce and the inquiry.

During the estimates hearing for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, further details surrounding the sacking of the Independent Implementation Supervisor came to light.

The decision to abolish the Independent Implementation Supervisor without public explanation, breaks this government’s promise for increased transparency. Furthermore, the Crisafulli LNP Government refused to commit to publishing regular progress reports, as was previously the case. The Director-General exposed this by stating:

“Ms Drew: ...Further consideration will be made in terms of further reporting publicly.”⁵⁸

⁵⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 87

⁵⁷ Domestic violence in Qld: New data exposes devastating trend | The Courier Mail

⁵⁸ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf Page 102

Queensland Labor Opposition

The Crisafulli LNP Government promised increased transparency and accountability yet, the decision to scrap the Independent Implementation Supervisor and not continue with the public reporting associated with that role, stands in direct contrast to this commitment.

In the absence of clear reporting on the progress of the taskforce and the inquiry, the Queensland Labor Opposition holds significant concerns that the Crisafulli LNP Government will delay and/or not continue implementing the vital recommendations of the taskforce and inquiry which were heavily consulted on and supported by the DFSV sector.

In doing so, the Crisafulli LNP Government breaks a number of promises, including listening to the experts, to honour Labor's budget commitments, to provide increased transparency and accountability of government. The most severe repercussion of this is reduced safety and support for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGY AND GOVERNMENT AGENDA

The Crisafulli LNP Government has stated its commitment to improving community safety and upholding the rights of victims and the budget must direct efforts to where they are needed most.

While police capacity is being bolstered, the specialist workforce that supports victim-survivors has been underfunded. As the Queensland Council of Social Services has stated: *"While police capacity is being bolstered, the workforce that supports victim survivors has been left to deal with increasing demand, without proper funding."*⁵⁹

The LNP has announced a new domestic and family violence strategy, but we are yet to see any detail or transparency around how funding will be allocated. Without clear investment in frontline support, this strategy risks being yet another unfulfilled promise.

The budget includes funding for electronic monitoring of high-risk DV perpetrators, but we know that for them to be effective they must be part of a broader, holistic approach that includes comprehensive wrap-around services. We urge the Government to work closely with the DFV sector in the delivery of the trial.

POLICE PROTECTION DIRECTIONS

The Crisafulli LNP Government have once again broken their promise to listen to experts. The government has demonstrated they are not committed to evidence-based policy. Instead, they are focused on data manipulation.

The introduction of Police Protection Directions, will misrepresent the number of victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, as is currently reported by DVOs and breach of DVOs. This move by the Crisafulli LNP Government is not backed by experts, and has been undertaken to suit their political agenda.

The Queensland Labor Oppositions holds grave concerns this comes at the expense of victim-survivors' safety.

***Ms McMILLAN:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Director-General, is it correct that your department provided advice to the minister that the prevention of the domestic and family violence sector held major concerns with respect to the police protection directions proposed by the Queensland Police Union?*

***Ms Drew:** I can confirm that, during the course of briefing the minister with regard to the legislation, our briefing of the minister was fulsome and included the concerns held by the sector.*

⁵⁹ https://www.qcoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Queensland_budget_analysis_25-26.pdf

Queensland Labor Opposition

Ms McMILLAN: Director-General, just to be clear, the prevention of domestic and family violence sector do not and did not support the new police protection direction laws which you advocated or which were advocated for by the Queensland Police Union. That is correct, is it not?

Ms Drew: I understand that is true, yes.”⁶⁰

The Queensland Labor Opposition holds significant reservations that the Crisafulli LNP Government are refusing to listen to the experts, which will ultimately result in worse outcomes for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

Due to the time constraints of the estimates hearing, further items were unable to be canvassed. This includes, DFSV frontline services funding and funding to the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence.

The Queensland Labor Opposition was unable to further unpack the Crisafulli LNP Government’s politicisation and attacks on the hardworking domestic and family violence workforce. The Queensland Labor Opposition acknowledges the domestic and family violence sector is facing workforce challenges with recruitment and retention of skilled workers that is not unique to Queensland and is observed across jurisdictions.

The Queensland Labor Opposition further acknowledge the psychologically injury and burnout associated with working in the sector and calls on the government to do more to support the sector.

ESTIMATES PROCESS

The Budget Estimates process is a cornerstone of our democracy in Queensland. For years it has been an opportunity for elected Members of Parliament, in particular non-government Members of Parliament to ask questions of Ministers and senior public servants to hold the elected government to account.

During the 2024 estimates process, the former Labor Government under the direction of then Labor Premier Steven Miles insisted that additional transparency measures were put in place to ensure that non-government Members of Parliament had ample opportunity to hold the elected government to account. These included:

- Providing crossbench Members of Parliament the ability to ask a pre-hearing Question on Notice for any Minister, regardless of if they were a member of the portfolio committee.
- Strictly allocating government and non-government Members of Parliament time in respect of questions. That being that government Members of Parliament questions should not exceed 30% of the total allocated time and the remaining time, 70% for non-government Members of Parliament.
- Of the time allocated for non-government Members of Parliament it should be proportioned between Opposition and crossbench Members of Parliament, based on the proportion of the makeup at the time.
- Only one opening statement per Minister for their entire portfolio of no longer than five minutes, with the Premier allocated no longer than 10 minutes.

These transparency enhancements to the Budget Estimates process, introduced by the former Labor Government, were discarded by Premier David Crisafulli and the LNP Government.

This is despite in 2020 the Courier Mail revealing the then LNP Leader of the Opposition’s views on the Estimates process, reporting:

⁶⁰ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf Page 100

Queensland Labor Opposition

- He [David Crisafulli] said that if the government did not accept “*the need to make changes*”, he would introduce them as Premier from the first hearings of the next term in 2024 – if the LNP wins power at the 2024 election.

The changes that were being referred to included:

- increasing the time available to examine the expenditure to ensure adequate questioning can occur;
- an Opposition or cross bench member to chair the committees to help ensure a fairer go;
- limiting the opportunity for ‘Dorothy Dixers’ questions from Government members which exist simply to allow ministers to wind down the clock.

While on paper there was more time overall for the hearings, the way in which Government Members conducted themselves with points of order to chew up time, and the removal of the 70% vs 30% time split, resulted in less time for the Opposition and Crossbench to ask questions to hold the government to account.

These actions were the very things that then LNP Leader of the Opposition David Crisafulli criticised. In the article referenced, he said:

“We’ve also seen ministers answer questions directed to independent public servants and Government members interrupting with tedious points of order to use up Opposition members’ time.”

It is clear that the promises made by the then LNP Leader of the Opposition have been broken.

This Budget Estimates there was nothing revolutionary about the way the hearings were conducted - ‘dorothy dixers’ still occurred and frivolous points of order were constantly taken.

Further information and analysis about the 2025 Budget Estimates can be found in the Statement of Reservation attached to the report on the *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025*.

CONCLUSION

The 2025 Budget Estimates process was an opportunity for the Crisafulli LNP Government to deliver on its promises – promises to reform, to do better, for a fresh start. Instead, the bar was set so low it was on the floor.

Instead of delivering for Queensland, the Crisafulli LNP Government is delivering for itself. When it comes to accountability, this process laid bare the truth of a government that has failed to live up to its own words. What resounds is that the Crisafulli LNP Government continues to choose secrecy over transparency and political games over genuine accountability.

The Crisafulli LNP Government’s obsession with self-interest over public interest was glaring. The people of modern Queensland expect a government that acts for them, not for themselves.

They want a government that embraces the values of openness, fairness and integrity – after all, that’s what they were sold at the 2024 Election.

Instead of being an opportunity for genuine interrogation of the 2025 Budget, the Estimates process was muddled to avoid scrutiny. By placing political convenience above the democratic process that is Budget Estimates, the Crisafulli LNP Government outed itself as out of step with the priorities of Queenslanders.

This is not the “fresh start” that was promised, it is a step back.

Queenslanders deserve better.

Queensland Labor Opposition

C. P. McMillan

**CORRINE MCMILLAN MP
MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE
SHADOW MINISTER FOR CHILD SAFETY, COMMUNITIES
AND THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

W. Bourne

**WENDY BOURNE MP
MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST
SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR STATE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS**

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE QUEENSLAND LABOR OPPOSITION

APPENDIX – MEDIA ARTICLES

Minister can't name teachers' union's five key goals

Rose Innes
Mikaela Mulveney

Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek was unable to list the five key focus areas the Queensland Teachers' Union is fighting for just 24 hours after the statewide strike where 50,000 members walked off the job.

When asked by Opposition Education spokeswoman Di Farmer if he could advise the five interest areas the QTU had been negotiating regarding the latest EBII, Mr Langbroek said it was "a matter of public record."

He listed "conditions in schools," "public sector wages policy" and "beginning teachers' payment, whether it's enhancing the experienced senior teacher" and "the allow-

ances that we look at that could be incentives".

"There are a number of different things that are part of the teachers' union request for which we continue to negotiate," he said.

His response came just one day after the union's first strike in 16 years, where 50,000 teachers walked from the job and just 13 per cent of Queensland kids attended school across the state.

Last year, the union released its five key interest areas that its council had endorsed including "remuneration that recognises

the professional qualifications of members", "attracting and retaining teachers and school leaders", "implementing the Comprehensive Review of

School resourcing", "supporting teachers and school leaders as professionals", and "fair and safe workplaces".

"We've been working with the union about trying to improve those conditions through the office that we've made, whether it's the beginning teachers payment, whether it's enhancing the experience senior teacher," Mr Langbroek said.

Mr Langbroek then handed over to the Deputy Director-General to answer the question further.

It comes after the QTU last month rejected the government's offer of annual pay increases of 3 per cent, 2.5 per cent, and 2.5 per cent over the next three years.



John-Paul Langbroek.

John-Paul Langbroek faces heat at estimates after teacher strike

Di Farmer has cheekily brought in one of the posters from a teachers union march and asked the Education Minister to pass it on to the Premier.

Rose Innes and Mikaela Mulveney

less than 2 min read August 7, 2025 - 1:43PM

Queensland Labor

19 Comments | A A



Di Farmer holds up a sign in the Estimates hearing. Picture: NewsWire / John Gass

Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek has been grilled in parliament one day after Queensland teachers walked off the job for the first time in 16 years.

Queensland Teachers Union members took protected industrial action on Wednesday for the first time since 2009 and has warned further strikes could occur unless the government improves its pay offer.

Brisbane Times

Politics Queensland Queensland government

'Modern-day bullying': Minister asks striking teachers to consider premier's feelings



Catherine Strohfeldt

August 7, 2025 — 12.33pm



Listen to this article

3 min

Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek has asked striking teachers to consider the impact of personal call-outs to politicians on the placards they carried at Wednesday's rally.

Some 50,000 members of the Queensland Teachers' Union stopped work for the first time in 16 years this week, with thousands rallying on Parliament House in Brisbane, demanding better pay and conditions from the state government.

In budget estimates on Thursday morning, Opposition education spokeswoman Di Farmer presented a stack of placards used during the strike that had been inspired by the classic children's book series *No, David!* by American author David Shannon.

Mass resignations from Queensland State Library after First Nations author stripped of prize

At least 12 judges have resigned from the State Library of Queensland after a First Nations author was stripped of a taxpayer funded fellowship for a controversial post.



Mikaela Mulveney

Follow

@mikaela_m2002

2 min read August 7, 2025 - 2:37PM

 Courier Mail

0 Comments

AA



First Nations writer Karen Wylde. Picture: Dominic Guerrero

Queensland Labor Opposition

Twelve judges resign from literary awards after fellowship sinking



Matt Dennien
August 7, 2025 - 4:58pm

Save Share A A

The news

Twelve judges have resigned from the Queensland Literary Awards since an intervention from Arts Minister John-Paul Langbroek, which led to the last-minute cancellation of a First Nations author's award ceremony in May.

Langbroek, questioned about the matter in a parliamentary estimates hearing, also said he would take similar actions for future awards "if it's deemed necessary".



George Street Beat: Qld politics news and gossip

After hours of grilling over two weeks of estimates, the state government's worst waffler has emerged. THIS IS GEORGE STREET BEAT

Hayden Johnson, Taylah Fellows, Mikaela Mulveney and Chris Burns

5 min read August 11, 2025 - 2:21PM [View on 4Mat](#)

74 Comments A A



Fiona Simpson, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships of Queensland. Picture: John Gass

After two weeks and hours of government grilling, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Minister Fiona Simpson has emerged as the worst waffler.

Her appearance at estimates this week was exhausting, thanks to a clear strategy of delivering a lengthy (and often unrelated) monologue to the most simple questions.

More DV powers for cops opposed

Taylah Fellows

The state government has admitted it went against advice from the domestic and family violence sector in giving police special powers to issue on-the-spot directives at DV call-outs.

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety director-general Belinda Drew has revealed the government knew the sector did not support the police protection directives plan introduced by the LNP in April.

First proposed by police and backed by the union, PPDs allow officers to issue 12-month on the spot directives to DV perpetrators to ease administration burdens.

The move was opposed by several stakeholders, including the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, Queensland Sexual Assault Network, Queensland Law Society, Red Rose and the Queensland Council of Social Service, which argued it would not make victims safer and could increase misidentification.

Ms Drew, during budget estimates on Thursday, said it was “true, yes” that the sector did not support the laws.

“Our briefing of the minister was fulsome, including in regard to the concerns held by the sector,” she said.

Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Minister Amanda Camm defended PPDs.

“While the member (Labor

MP Corrine McMillan) is referring to what is potentially a vast majority of workers within that sector, I have had representation from services that my department funds who are willing to work and are open to working with this legislation,” she said.

Ms Camm then accused Ms McMillan of not taking DV seriously due to accusations levelled at her colleague Jimmy Sullivan.

“Advocacy is not taken very seriously when the member is part of a political party that sat alongside an alleged domestic violence perpetrator in this house, by the Member for Stafford,” she said.

The government has argued that PPDs will help police respond to more DV incidents after call-outs skyrocketed 20 per cent, with the service receiving more than 200,000 calls for help last year.