



Speech by
**Mr DENVER
BEANLAND**

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

Hansard 10 November 1998

AGE DISCRIMINATION; ESTIMATES COMMITTEES; LIQUOR LICENCES

Mr BEANLAND (Indooroopilly—LP) (11.46 p.m.): I rise to address some of the offensive and outrageous claims made in this House on Tuesday, 20 October, by the member for Springwood. As the shadow Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care, I find it absolutely disgraceful that a member would rise in this House and denigrate older Queenslanders. Unfortunately, that is exactly what has been done by the member for Springwood. In a shameful display of arrogance, the member for Springwood tried to argue that the Labor Party would make a better Government because its members are comparatively younger than those on this side of the House.

Mr MUSGROVE: I rise to a point of order. I find offensive the claim that I have denigrated older people. That was not at all the context of my remarks. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr BEANLAND: It is true that the remarks that the member made are offensive. They are most offensive to older Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Does the member ask that they be withdrawn?

Mr MUSGROVE: Yes, I want them withdrawn.

Mr BEANLAND: I withdraw. However, I will just say that those remarks are offensive to older Queenslanders.

The member's startling revelation was that members of the Government benches are, on average, five years younger than members of the coalition parties. What an outrageous assertion. I am sure that some of Mr Musgrove's more senior colleagues would, like most people, take umbrage at his claim that older members should be put out to pasture and that members of the coalition should ensure that there are enough nursing home places for them in the not-too-distant future. The member's comments in relation to CPR and some health problems experienced by the elderly are even more offensive. The member for Springwood should be ashamed and disgraced by his performance on Tuesday, 20 October.

The Anti-Discrimination Commissioner recently reported an increase in the number of cases involving age discrimination in this State. What about the \$4m over four years that has been allocated by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care as part of a whole-of-Government initiative to respond to priority issues for older Queenslanders—an amount similar to that allocated by the former coalition Government in its May Budget of this year? The Minister might remind the member for Springwood that 1999 will be the International Year of Older Persons. More importantly, however, the Minister might like to provide the member with a copy of a press release that she issued on the Monday—just one day before Mr Musgrove's disgraceful performance—in which she stated that, by 2031, one in four Queenslanders will be over the age of 60, and that every week up to 1,000 Queenslanders become Seniors Card holders.

It is now up to the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and the Premier to ensure that there is never a repeat performance of this nature from members of the Labor Party. I call on the Minister and the Premier to publicly repudiate this outrageous slur on older Queenslanders. Older Queenslanders deserve to be recognised and valued for their knowledge and contribution to our community. I can assure the member for Springwood that I will be doing everything I can to let his electorate know of his comments in this House in relation to this matter.

I wish to comment briefly on one aspect of the comments of the member for Barambah on 22 October in relation to her attendance at the Estimates hearings—from the Opposition perspective. One Nation was offered two positions on the Estimates committees and took up only one. The shadow Ministers obviously had to shadow their respective Ministers in the Estimates committees for their portfolios, which left some three positions vacant. At the end of the day, the member for Gladstone took up one of those positions. The member for Maryborough, a One Nation member, decided that he would like to be a member of an Estimates committee, and he took up another position. There was one other vacancy, and that had to be filled by a coalition backbench member because it remained unfilled at the end of the day. Of course, members have the ability by arrangement to seek leave of the committee to ask questions. That capability was also available to the member for Barambah as it was, of course, to other backbench members, including One Nation members.

The third matter I want to refer to relates to the application for liquor licences in my electorate. This case relates to a cinema complex at the Indooroopilly Shoppingtown. We have gone through a period during which those restaurants and other undertakings that can obtain liquor licences have been extended. I believe that there is a time and place for liquor licensing. I do not think we want to extend those licences to cinema complexes. Of course, it can be argued perhaps that there is a justifiable basis for that, although no justification has been put up in this instance. An application has been made. I am concerned because families allow their children to go there with relative safety and ease. They are not concerned about the consumption of alcohol on those premises. Although the applicants might be able to say that liquor will be served only in a special, reserved area, I am sure that at the end of the day they will be seeking extensions of that licence across other areas on the same premises where children and young people go. I do not believe it is the sort of move we want to encourage.

Time expired.
