



Speech by

## Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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Hansard 15 September 1998

### MARYBOROUGH BASE HOSPITAL

**Miss SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—NPA) (10.23 a.m.): Health Minister Wendy Edmond is clearly out of her depth in the Health portfolio and the public hospitals of this State are already starting to go backwards under the Labor Government. The decision by Health Minister Wendy Edmond to downgrade Maryborough Base Hospital was a betrayal of local Maryborough and district residents. The National/Liberal coalition had a clear policy of retaining all services at Maryborough Base Hospital, including intensive care, high-risk birthing and high-risk paediatrics. Most importantly, the coalition forced the health bureaucrats to implement our policy.

Despite Mr Beattie's monumental weekend backflip——

**Mr Elder:** The Premier's backflip.

**Miss SIMPSON:** Despite the Premier's backflip, the Labor Government is still pushing ahead with its plan to cut the number of beds at the Maryborough Base Hospital from 120 beds as announced by the coalition to only 80 beds.

Senior staff at the hospital are relieved that the intensive care unit will remain open at Maryborough Base Hospital, but people are concerned about the cut to bed numbers and the possible downgrading of the operating theatre redevelopment. Engineers and consultants have already produced reports outlining the need to redevelop the operating theatres at Maryborough Base Hospital. The Premier's announcement that the operating theatres only may be refurbished demonstrates the determination of the Labor Government to downgrade the status of the Maryborough Base Hospital.

The fact is that if the National/Liberal coalition were still in power, the people of Maryborough would continue to have all of their hospital services. The Labor Party should be run out of Maryborough after its disgraceful and treacherous decision to slash specialist services at the Maryborough Base Hospital. The people of Maryborough should never forget that the National/Liberal coalition guaranteed and funded all the specialist services at their hospital and that the Labor Party is now trying to take away those services.

Time expired.

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