



Speech by

GARY FENLON

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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AMELIA HOUSE

Mr FENLON (Greenslopes—ALP) (8.41 p.m.): In the lead-up to the Federal election, my electorate office was inundated with calls from elderly constituents who were literally panic stricken about their future. I am not resorting to hyperbole when I say that. Those people were generally alarmed. As people on fixed incomes, many of them asked what kind of future they would face with the introduction of a GST and with the massive increase in nursing home fees—just to name two measures that would make the lives of the elderly in Australia more difficult and less costly to a surplus-at-any-cost Federal Government. In the light of this, I wish to draw attention to the admirable and invaluable work being undertaken in my electorate at Amelia House, Coorparoo. That centre services the need for the provision of respite care for the frail aged, the younger disabled and their carers.

My electorate has a very high proportion of elderly constituents and it seems that this general trend will continue. Unlike so many other areas in Brisbane, the population in Greenslopes is relatively stable. Indeed, it is common for residents to tell me that they have lived in the same house for the past 50 years. For this reason, the provision of services for the elderly and older people with disabilities is crucial in my area.

Amelia House was established in 1987 as a response to calls from the Federal Government to examine the relatively neglected area of respite provision for the frail aged, the younger disabled and their carers. Funding for the services that Amelia House offers is provided by the Home and Community Care program, a joint Federal and State undertaking. The Home and Community Care Program is designed to address the needs of people living in the community who, without basic maintenance and support, would be confronted with the undesirable prospect of premature or inappropriate admission to long-term residential care. Initially, HACC funding was approved for a five-day respite care program—

Time expired.
