



Speech by

## GORDON NUTTALL

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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Hansard 5 August 1998

### EVENTIDE NURSING HOME

**Mr NUTTALL** (Sandgate—ALP) (7.07 p.m.): I do not know how I am going to follow that. Let me say that it is nice to be in the 1990s and on this side of the Parliament. I always thought that, on being elected to this Parliament, one of the most important things to do was to represent one's electorate. The honourable member for Caboolture has now made several speeches in this Parliament, yet not once have I heard him talk about his constituency or the needs of his electorate. I am waiting with bated breath.

As a Parliamentary Secretary, it is really nice to be able to get up and say something. I have been getting really worried by the Opposition not letting us ask questions. It is a bit of a concern when we want to get up and ask a few questions about our electorate and we are being gagged by the Opposition.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (D'Arcy): Order! I suggest that the honourable member get on with his speech.

**Mr NUTTALL:** Thankyou Mr Deputy Speaker, and I will. I really wish to address my remarks to the good people in my electorate and to the issue of the Eventide Nursing Home. As their local member, that is an issue that has been dear to my heart for some considerable time.

**Mr Lucas:** How many Marxists are there?

**Mr NUTTALL:** I will have to go and do a head count, I think. It is a bit of a worry.

In the past couple of years we have had some very serious problems at the Eventide Nursing Home. Some people have not received their breakfast until 10 o'clock in the morning. Sometimes it has been two or three days before some residents have been able to have a bath. These problems have occurred simply because of severe funding cuts in the Health budget under the coalition Government.

The candidate for Lilley, Mr Wayne Swan, and I have been campaigning fairly strongly for the past couple of years in relation to this issue because it is of great concern not only to the residents of Eventide but also to their families and to the supporters of the nursing home. As most people would be aware, Eventide was established after World War II. It is a very significant part of the Sandgate community. The things that have occurred at Eventide in the past couple of years because of those budget cuts have been nothing short of atrocious. We have had to rely on community and church groups to assist in meeting the needs of the residents.

I am pleased to say that, upon Labor attaining Government, Mr Swan and I arranged to make personal representations to the Health Minister and she was good enough to give us an appointment. As a result, we were able to see her and talk about the issues at Eventide. The Minister gave us an undertaking that she would investigate these matters and see what she could do to assist us. Mr Swan and I are very grateful to the Minister. She gave us an undertaking that she would give serious consideration to having departmental officials look into the matter. She indicated that she personally would take an interest in our concerns. I want to put on the public record my appreciation of the Health Minister in giving that undertaking. I am hopeful that in the forthcoming Budget we will be able to remedy some of the grave difficulties that we have at Eventide.

**Mr Briskey** interjected.

**Mr NUTTALL:** I thank the honourable member for Cleveland for that interjection. It is nice to have a Health Minister who takes members' concerns for their electorates on board. Three or four busloads of people, who had never previously been involved in public protests, came to the Executive Building and were prepared to protest about the grave problems at Eventide. It is a credit to those people that they have been involved.

Time expired.

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