



Speech by

Mrs E. CUNNINGHAM

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Hansard 12 November 1998

GLADSTONE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—IND) (7.14 p.m.): I want to speak tonight about a problem in my electorate which most of us thought was being rectified. It has become evident over the past week that that is not the case. The hospital redevelopment in Gladstone City is progressing very well. It has been funded under both Governments, and for that I am very grateful; the community will benefit. The co-location also was instituted under both Governments, and that is progressing well.

However, in the redevelopment it was recognised and recognised clearly that we have a problem with our morgue. It is only a very small building. It is now in the centre of the development, between the public hospital and the private hospital. It is small, the chillers are ineffective and the ventilation is poor; it is just not up to health and safety standards. The agreement was that the proceeds of the sale of the land to the Mater Hospital would be retained in Gladstone and go towards the redevelopment of the morgue and also to the redevelopment/refurbishment of the nurses' quarters for visiting medical officers and staff. That was agreed to under the previous Government. That commitment transferred and we believed it was the agreement under this current Government.

The Premier inspected the morgue some weeks ago and he concurred with the problems that it presented. Even when the Premier left, it was still held by him, I believe, as well as us that that money was going to be redirected. It appears, however, in the past week or so that the money was retained by Treasury, which refused to re-release it to the hospital up in Gladstone, and that is creating a huge problem. As I said, the morgue does not comply with proper standards. Both sides of Parliament, I believe, felt that the remedy had been agreed to. It has become evident, as I said, in the past week or so that that has fallen by the wayside. It is critical that Treasury re-release that money to the Gladstone Hospital to enable that redevelopment to occur. It is not fair on the——

Time expired.
