



Speech by

Hon. V. LESTER

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Hansard 20 October 1998

NEW HOSPITAL, CAPRICORN COAST

Hon. V. P. LESTER (Keppel—NPA) (10.26 a.m.): I preface my comments by stating that a number of Ministers opposite have indeed given courteous replies and tried to be helpful in response to issues raised by Opposition members. I now comment on the Health Minister's response to representations made by me to put a new hospital complex for the Capricorn Coast on a five-year plan. This was done after representations made to me by a number of senior medical people in the area. To my surprise and to the surprise of everybody, through a letter to the editor I was got stuck into in no uncertain terms for simply doing my job.

The people of the Capricorn Coast are very disappointed at the attitude of the Minister in trying to play politics, when all I was doing was adhering to the representations that I had made. This is indeed a very shabby effort on the part of the Minister. It is not in any way condoned by the people. They really do not appreciate this type of behaviour. All we asked for was a listing on the five-year plan. We spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in maintenance when we were in Government. It is time for a new hospital.

The Minister wants to play politics. It is a most ordinary effort. I am sure even the Premier would not be very happy with her performance in trying to politicise the issue of people's health. We are simply doing our best for our people, yet the Minister chooses to politicise things. She has made an absolute mistake. All will be forgiven if she turns around and puts this project on the five-year plan. There is no big hurry; it just needs to be put on the plan. Other Ministers have tried to help, yet this Minister wants to play politics. It is no wonder she gets herself into strife, as she did in Maryborough and other places. She ought to lift her game. She should act better.

Time expired.
