



Speech by

Mr BRUCE LAMING

MEMBER FOR MOOLOOLAH

Hansard 11 March 1999

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

Mr LAMING (Mooloolah—LP) (7.10 p.m.): During the six o'clock debate in this Chamber on Tuesday night, the member for Kurwongbah was critical of my response to the Health Minister's decision to place a community mental health centre in Lady Musgrave Drive, Mountain Creek. The honourable member was either speaking from an ill-informed position, which I could have remedied had she spoken to me, or was briefed by the Minister for Health, which is even more disappointing considering the fact that the Minister has not made any such claim to me herself.

The facts of the matter are that with absolutely no public consultation or community education a decision was made to purchase Lady Musgrave House, which is almost next door to a primary school and a high school. This is at significant variance from the procedure followed in the member for Kurwongbah's own electorate, where I understand the school community was consulted and a letterbox drop was conducted, and I table the flyer and the advertisement.

The reaction of three community groups in Mountain Creek was understandable, and my representations to the Minister on their behalf have resulted in a decision by the Minister to defer any decision to purchase Lady Musgrave House until local consultations are finalised. I table a copy of the Minister's letter of just last week, which does not contain any of the outlandish language of the member for Kurwongbah. I am on the record at each of the four public meetings that I attended and in letters to the Minister supporting a community mental health centre on the Sunshine Coast. I continue to call for an open assessment of all available sites, a full consultation process and public education of the benefits of such a facility.

Former and current Ministers for Health and Attorneys-General are well aware of my longstanding concerns about some aspects of the Mental Health Act, which are being considered but not yet addressed. Recently, I asked the Minister for Health for clarification of a particular part of the Act which could impact on community mental health centres all over Queensland. I await a response to this and will continue to strongly represent the interests of my constituents in this and other matters. If the member for Kurwongbah considers that to be appalling behaviour, I look forward to her continuing to be appalled.
