



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard 26 May 1999

WAR VETERANS HOMES, REDLANDS

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (10.26 a.m.): Recently the issue of the need for a war veterans home in the Redlands has been raised with me by many within my electorate. Because of the beauty, the lifestyle and the people, many veterans choose to retire in the Redlands. War veterans homes are established to provide accommodation for returned servicemen and women. They also provide accommodation for people who are not returned servicemen and women. People are accommodated based on need; however, priority is given to ex-service applicants where the needs of applicants are assessed to be equal.

A number of war veterans homes have been established in the Brisbane area and they have proved to be successful. They provide a home for people with similar interests and life experiences, which means a great deal to those who live there. There are currently more than 2,000 veterans in the Redlands who are entitled to Veterans' Affairs entitlements. Of these, 1,400 are over the age of 70. There are a further 1,170 in the Wynnum Manly area. A war veterans home would cater for these veterans.

The Redlands RSL has 800 members and there are a further 1,260 members of other RSLs in the bayside area. These figures indicate that war veterans homes would benefit many in the Redlands and Wynnum areas. There continue to be large retirement villages built in the shire, which are filled very soon after construction. This adds to the need for a war veterans home. At present, people are moving to Caboolture and Sunnybank so that they can access the care provided by war veterans homes in these places. The demand for a bed in these homes has meant a six to 12-month waiting list at the closest home to the Redlands, which is at Sunnybank.

As I said at the outset, I have been contacted personally by many returned servicemen and women who feel that there is a need for a war veterans home in the Redlands. They are concerned about the lack of sufficient facilities for themselves and their friends who do not wish to leave the Redlands and believe a war veterans home would provide them with the security of knowing that their future care in old age is secure.
