



Speech by
**Mr DENVER
BEANLAND**

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

Hansard 21 July 1999

TERRICA PLACE CHILD CARE CENTRE

Mr BEANLAND (Indooroopilly—LP) (10.13 a.m.): The public of Queensland witnessed, at the end of last month, the closure of the Terrica Place Child Care Centre, an essential family resource for working parents in Brisbane. Child-care centre representatives met with the Premier at a Community Cabinet meeting in late June and were able to impress upon him the urgency of the situation, that is, the centre would close on 30 June unless sufficient State Government sponsorship was forthcoming. Sponsorship had already been committed by both the Brisbane City Council and Federal Government departments. Furthermore, correspondence from the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care indicated last November that she was encouraging—and suggested involving—all levels of government. The Minister was keen to assist wherever possible.

With this in mind, sufficient sponsors were found for 18 places for the State Government. However, on the evening of 29 June, the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care indicated that no support would be forthcoming from State Government departments, thereby pulling the rug out from under that child-care centre. The closure of the centre meant that 30% of the child-care centre places in the Brisbane CBD were lost. So much for this Government's concerns about child care within the inner city!

To quote the Terrica Place Child Care Centre families—

"It is an appalling way to be treated by the Premier and the Queensland Government said a spokesman for the centre's parents working group. The staff and families here have been dismissed as insignificant and had their efforts to save the centre actively sabotaged by the government department that supposedly represents their interests ... there are 12 staff here who do not have a job to go to tomorrow and 50 Brisbane families without childcare."

The families are right. This happened because the Beattie Labor Government failed to support the centre.

In addition, this Minister has made a range of statements, such as it would be little effort to find other places for those people who will no longer have a place. Yet three weeks have now gone by since the closure of the centre, and many families still do not have a place for their child.

Time expired.
