



Speech by

## Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

---

Hansard 21 July 1999

### GOLD COAST HOSPITAL

**Miss SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—NPA) (10.22 a.m.): While our camel riding media junkie Premier trivialises Queensland Government, hundreds of Gold Coast people are lying stranded in the corridors of the base hospital waiting for beds. While the State Labor Government pays out \$13m of State funds for a Brisbane pedestrian bridge and more than \$30m to bail out the Brisbane City Council to help fund a bypass road, Gold Coast people have only received empty promises from this Government as they watch their hospital collapse.

According to today's Gold Coast Sun, in the last year there has been a doubling in the number of patients stranded in hospital corridors waiting for beds. The newspaper rightly calls this situation a disgrace. It is a disgrace. It is an absolute disgrace. To date, the people of the Gold Coast have received only empty promises and no answers from this Government. I agree with the Gold Coast Sun, which says that the Labor Health Minister, Wendy Edmond, has delivered little more than hot air and that it is time for her to either resign or be sacked.

The people of the Gold Coast also do not want the Premier calling the doctors who dare to speak up Nazis, as he did after the people of the Gold Coast delivered a record petition to this Parliament calling for extra funding. The people simply want their hospital fixed. Mr Beattie and Ms Edmond have made promises. However, they have not fixed the problem and have simply made it worse.

In July last year the Gold Coast Hospital had more than 230 people waiting for bed placements in accident and emergency. Current figures indicate that the corridor bed number for July this year is expected to exceed 400. It is reported that so far this year 1,134 people have had to spend time in the corridors compared with 471 at the same time last year. The staff at this hospital are being asked to meet budget at a cost to the patients who are forced to wait long hours in discomfort while the Royal Brisbane Hospital has received a multimillion-dollar bail-out of about \$10m, Toowoomba Hospital of about \$5m and Bundaberg Hospital of up to \$1m.

Time expired.

---