



Speech by

# GORDON NUTTALL

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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Hansard 22 July 1999

## REDCLIFFE

**Mr NUTTALL** (Sandgate—ALP) (7.14 p.m.): As the honourable member for Redcliffe would no doubt be aware, on Saturday, 12 June the Courier-Mail reported that Redcliffe Mayor Alan Boulton characterised Redcliffe as a place that was overrepresented with Housing Commission accommodation and a hefty proportion of unmarried mothers living totally on child support pensions. This is a disgraceful description of Redcliffe, as it is simply not true. It surprises me that a mayor who is some eight months out from an election would describe his constituents in that way.

I represent an electorate adjacent to the area to which Councillor Bolton refers. It concerns me that the mayor fails to offer any solutions to help less fortunate people, but rather offers solutions to keep them out of his city. His solution is to introduce a quota system, which is outrageous. The mayor should not isolate or denigrate residents of that area because of their economic circumstances.

Although many people find themselves in low socioeconomic circumstances, they actually contribute extensively to the social fabric of their communities. One cannot put a dollar value on that. In fact, it seems that the mayor is concerned primarily about business and about having extensive numbers of elaborate shops in the CBD. The mayor fails to understand that shops cater for the clientele in the area.

The people of Redcliffe offer a vast contrast. Yes, there are rich and, unfortunately, there are poor but, more significantly, the fact of life is that they are people. It appears that the Mayor of Redcliffe fails to recognise that human qualities are truly important. It is obvious that the mayor believes that wealth is the most important factor in one's life. I fail to agree with this.

Time expired.

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