



Speech by

Mrs J. SHELDON

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Hansard 14 April 1999

QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mrs SHELDON (Caloundra—LP) (10.09 a.m.): I wish to speak on an issue of concern that affects all Queenslanders, and particularly a constituent of mine, Mr Craig Ebert. This issue involves the Queensland Ambulance Service and a response that I received from the Minister. On 16 December 1998 at approximately 9.30 a.m., my constituent was visiting relatives outside Proserpine. He was involved in an accident approximately 45 kilometres south of Carmila. A passing motorist must have notified the ambulance, which travelled to the scene.

Mr Ebert's car was severely damaged, but he was not injured. The ambulance officer examined him, gave him a Glucodin tablet for possible shock and stayed with him for some time to make sure that he was all right. The tow truck driver took him to Carmila, from where he caught a bus back to the Sunshine Coast.

Mr Ebert stated to me and to the QAS that he did not call the ambulance, he did not need the ambulance and at no time was he transported in the ambulance. However, a month after the accident he received a bill for \$1,184.20, which he considered not only excessive but also unfair. He is not covered by ambulance subscription. He contacted the QAS and was told that they would review the situation. However, subsequently he got a notice to pay up. No-one is questioning the good work done by and the dedication of the officers in the Ambulance Service. However this amount of money—approximately \$1,200 for a Glucodin tablet—is absurd.

On 8 March I contacted the Minister for Emergency Services to seek some justice; however, none was forthcoming. She evidently supports this outrageous charge. We know that with Labor's policy of free ambulance travel for all pensioners and seniors card holders and their dependents the QAS is severely strapped for funds. We also know that the Minister intends to raise the cost of ambulance subscriptions and charges—yet another Labor tax hike. I ask her to reconsider the position of my constituent and all Queenslanders in being charged this horrific amount—

Mrs ROSE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has said that there is an intention to raise ambulance subscriptions. She is misleading the Parliament. It is nonsense, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The member for Caloundra's time has expired. Time expired.
