



Speech by

Mr J. HEGARTY

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Hansard 26 August 1999

KINECTIONS COUNSELLING SERVICE

Mr HEGARTY (Redlands—NPA) (7.01 p.m.): Once again, the Beattie Labor Government is failing to meet the expectations of Queenslanders, this time through its failure to support a much-needed counselling service in the Redlands. Kinections Counselling Service is a not-for-profit organisation run by Anglicare. It receives no Federal or State funding support. It has to rely completely upon funding and support from the Anglican Church and local parishes.

Kinections was established at Cleveland in 1991. It services the whole of the Redland Shire and the Brisbane suburbs of Wynnum and Manly. Its clients come from as far away as Beenleigh. It is an agency approved under the Federal Family Law Act 1976 to provide marriage relationship education and child and family services. It provides counselling in cases of domestic violence and relationship breakdown. It looks after parenting issues, including single parent and step-family matters and operates in the areas of countering sexual and substance abuse.

The local Anglican community has provided substantial support to Kinections, meeting the rent of the service's premises and providing volunteers to act as reception staff. The core funding required to support Kinections is only just under \$30,000 a year. Kinections can meet nearly half this amount from its own fundraising efforts. Unfortunately, the balance can no longer be made available from the Anglican Church.

Each year, the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care refers approximately 20% of Kinections' clients yet, astonishingly, it has refused to find a paltry \$15,000 a year for this service, which is now set to close its doors on 30 September. What explanation does the Minister provide for this blatant refusal of much-needed funding? None at all! I call on the Minister to not be so unresponsive to the needs of the bayside communities and to commit funding to Kinections to allow this valuable service to continue. I would be very disappointed with the Beattie Government crowing over the money being allocated to community services if, in this year's Budget to be handed down next month, there is not sufficient funding to meet the needs of this service in the Redlands.
