



Speech by

Hon. K. LINGARD

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

Hansard 23 November 1999

BOYSTOWN

Hon. K. R. LINGARD (Beaudesert—NPA) (10.23 p.m.): On Sunday I was delighted to be able to attend the family day celebrations at BoysTown. Family day is when the parents of the young boys come in to have a look at horse riding activities, motorbike riding and all sorts of other displays that the boys put on. However, during the day I was disgusted to find out that, following a Government review, Brother Paul Rogers, who is the director of BoysTown, has been asked to leave BoysTown. He will be replaced by a Government person on an SES3 rating—a lay person from outside BoysTown.

BoysTown has always been run by the De La Salle brothers. It has always had excellent directors, such as Brother Paul Smith. BoysTown has always offered an excellent rehabilitation program, which is a long-term program involving education and rehabilitation, not a short-term program. The ALP has always had difficulty coming to grips with the concept of BoysTown. The ALP has always had difficulties coming to grips with those people within their group who are totally in favour of deinstitutionalisation, who believe that all sorts of institutions must be closed down. Of course, we have seen reviews of Piabun and Geoff Guest's concept at Cairns, which gets rid of these types of institutions.

In 1997, there were 84 boys at BoysTown. At present, there are only 26 boys at BoysTown, yet for a year and a half the Government has paid for 84 students. That is a blatant misuse of BoysTown. Of course, now that the numbers at BoysTown have dropped to 26, the ALP has done its usual trick and sent in a Government review team which believes in deinstitutionalisation and which has come up with all sorts of things that are wrong with BoysTown. What is the ALP going to do now? Is it going to change the whole concept of BoysTown? It is not going to provide that long-term rehabilitation; it is going to bus kids in from Inala, Beenleigh and Logan City.

Time expired.
