



Speech by

LINDA LAVARCH

STATE MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

Hansard 14 April 1999

HOME Assist/HOME Secure Scheme, Pine Rivers Shire

Mrs LAVARCH (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.23 a.m.): Monday was a red-letter day for older persons in the Pine Rivers Shire. It was a day that has been a long time coming. Monday, 12 April 1999 will be remembered as the day we celebrated the success of a long and hard-fought campaign—a campaign to end the discrimination against our older people.

I am happy to inform members that a HOME Assist/HOME Secure scheme has been officially launched in the Pine Rivers Shire. This now puts an end to the anomaly that all around us HOME Assist/HOME Secures operate but, for pensioners and people with a disability living in the Pine Rivers Shire, there was no access to subsidised home maintenance or household security assessments.

When the HOME Assist/HOME Secure scheme was first established in 1993 by the Goss Labor Government, no-one could have predicted how well it would be received in the community and how much a community suffered by not having a scheme in place. In the early days in our area, the difficulty was in finding a local community group or other organisation to auspice the scheme. Notwithstanding, many in the community continued to lobby to get a scheme up and running. When I came to office in May 1997, one of the first things I did was join the call for a HOME Assist/HOME Secure scheme. After gathering signatures on a petition, presenting it to Parliament and speaking to local groups about submitting an expression of interest in running the scheme, the tide turned for our area when the Beattie Labor Government was elected to office in June 1998.

I congratulate the Minister for Housing, Robert Swarten, on his speedy announcement that Pine Rivers would be covered by the HOME Assist/HOME Secure scheme. In just nine months, expressions of interest were called, the Pine Rivers Shire Council was awarded the scheme and will receive almost \$88,000 to establish the scheme. A coordinator has been employed, and on Monday the scheme was officially launched. As a result of these efforts, over 10,200 Pine Rivers Shire residents who had previously missed out will be covered. My only regret is that, because of parliamentary duties, I was unable to be present at the launch to be part of the community's joy that they have now received this valuable, highly-regarded service.

Time expired.
