



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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MOUNT LOFTY NURSING HOME

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (10.27 a.m.): The mark of any society is its ability to care for the most vulnerable in it. The callous decision to slash \$350,000 from the capital budget for the Mount Lofty Nursing Home has meant that 14 old men, institutionalised for the bulk of their life, will now be shifted from the only home they know—the place where they know the staff who love them and their visitors.

These are the same old men who, in the early nineties under the Goss Labor Government, were shipped out to a boarding house in Brisbane and had to be rescued by the staff from where they were sleeping in beds under a stairwell. The staff at Mount Lofty love these people. For these people it is the only family they have and the only place they know. We cannot move these people, who are in their eighties and nineties, in the sunset of their life.

I am appealing to the Premier. He has said that he will intervene in this matter. This is a humanitarian issue. Let us take the politics out of it. Let us put aside the \$350,000 that the Government ripped out and start to spend some money to see that this place continues to be a safe and happy home for these 14 old men. Some of them are former diggers in their eighties and nineties. Their only asset is the staff who love and care for them and their visitors. They have nothing else. They were in Baillie Henderson years ago before they were shifted to Mount Lofty. If we are to have any measure of care in our society at all, it is important that we provide humanitarian intervention. Their home is the cottage at Mount Lofty. Their home is the people who care for them—the nurses and visitors. That is their only home. They do not have much time left. These poor old men should be left alone with their friends and loved ones, and the funding restored so that they can live safely and peacefully in their twilight years.
