



Speech by

**Mr M. HORAN**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Hansard 28 April 1999

**MR F. PEACH**

**Mr HORAN** (Toowoomba South—NPA) (10.13 a.m.): One of the important principles in appointing people to senior positions to run departments is that those people have some particular knowledge of the department that they are managing, and none more so than in the area of correctional services where one would expect that people who are going to be appointed to be the director-general would have some experience of prisons, not zero experience. Last week in the Courier-Mail, there was a very worrying report that Mr Frank Peach, who was the former Director-General of Education—a highly experienced teacher, a highly experienced administrator and a highly experienced director-general of Education—will be appointed as director-general of the new Department of Corrective Services that is going to be created.

That appointment is akin to putting a policeman in charge of the Education Department. It is also a move that is akin to what happened under the former Goss Government when the Labor Party decided that Mr Dick Persson, who was experienced in the area of local government and housing, should be put in charge of the Health Department. We saw the disastrous results that occurred in Health.

Not only that, we have just debated a Bill in this House regarding the changing structure of correctional services, which came about as a result of an independent inquiry headed by Mr Frank Peach. At that stage, when we were debating that Bill, we did not know that the person heading that independent inquiry was then going to be appointed to be in charge of the department. Such a move would be similar to appointing Mr Kennedy who, in the late 1980s, conducted an independent inquiry into Queensland's correctional system for the National Party Government. Members could imagine the furore if Mr Kennedy had been appointed the director-general of the department after undertaking that inquiry!

The people who are going to be in charge of departments must have some knowledge of the work of the departments. We must have someone in charge of corrective services who has had some experience with jails, who has worked their way up and who has held managerial positions. This is one of the most important director-general positions in the State. We want to put on record our extreme concern about Mr Peach's total lack of experience in relation to corrective services.

Time expired.

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