



Speech by

MIKE REYNOLDS

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Hansard 25 November 1999

MAGNETIC ISLAND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr REYNOLDS (Townsville—ALP) (10.19 a.m.): Magnetic Island has excellent emergency medical facilities. They are indeed second to none in Queensland regional communities. Twenty-four hour medical nursing and ambulance services are provided on the island, as well as an emergency medivac helicopter service. Of course, in any life-threatening event, residents should call 000 in the first instance. As the member for Townsville, I have taken a keen interest in this issue of health service delivery, and I will continue to in the future. A small group of politically motivated people, mostly Pauline Hanson One Nation supporters on the island, have been attempting to spread uncertainty and fear among sections of the community, especially the aged, by suggesting that the service is inferior and putting them at risk.

I deplore this irresponsible behaviour. I believe that residents should ignore the political propaganda being spread. The island has a very good mix of public health facilities and private practice. Next week the Department of Health will interview applicants for a permanent public general practitioner to work 15 hours a week at the Magnetic Island health service centre. The position is funded by the State Government. When appointed, this doctor will be available on call to deal with emergency situations, as is the case now with the temporary doctor.

Residents of Magnetic Island have every reason to have complete confidence in the emergency health provisions available. As the local member, I shall continue to responsibly liaise with the Health Department officers and the community to ensure that the best possible health facilities are maintained for their benefit. I congratulate Dr Chris Kennedy, the manager of the Townsville District Health Service, and his medical and nursing staff and ambulance and emergency personnel for their dedication in the delivery of emergency health and medical facilities to Magnetic Island. Unlike the Opposition, I will be concentrating on real concerns of service delivery in my electorate rather than getting on with the politics of the Opposition.
