



Speech by

MIKE REYNOLDS

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Hansard 11 March 1999

MAGNETIC ISLAND HEALTH CLINIC

Mr REYNOLDS (Townsville—ALP) (10.13 a.m.): I refer to a petition to the Minister for Health, signed by 1,127 people, regarding the Magnetic Island Health Clinic. During the last election campaign I worked hard to highlight the problems being experienced at the clinic. As the member for Townsville I have done a great deal to address them. I have met with Dr Chris Kennedy, manager of Townsville District Health Services, to impress upon him the importance of protocols for the nursing sister. These are now in place.

The issue of giving the Magnetic Island clinic special isolated practice endorsement is complex, because it involves professional limits between doctors and nurses. The Government must consult on these matters with professional bodies such as the Queensland Nursing Council, which regulates nursing in Queensland and registers all practising nurses.

I have always strongly appreciated the concerns that Magnetic Island residents have expressed about public health facilities available at the clinic. These concerns were fully outlined in my maiden speech to the Parliament.

A public doctor, Dr Sarah Lythgow, is now employed at the Magnetic Island clinic and the professional parameters which define her practice must be respected. If there is a problem for patients in accessing the public doctor or other medical practitioners on the island, a registered nurse at the clinic now has the ability to supply scheduled medications for residents after getting phone instructions from a practitioner. In emergencies there is also scope to use standing orders. These orders must be approved by a medical practitioner and allow the registered nurse to administer a single-dose treatment. I will consult further with Minister Edmond to ensure that the grievances outlined in the petition are thoroughly examined. I table the petition.
