



Speech by

Hon. WENDY EDMOND

MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

Hansard 23 November 1999

PRIVATE HEALTH FACILITIES BILL

Hon. W. M. EDMOND (Mount Coot-tha— ALP) (Minister for Health) (10.34 p.m.), in reply: I would like to thank members on both sides of the House for their contribution this evening and for their support for the Bill. The member for Maroochydore seems to believe she is debating some other Bill, and I remind members that this is the Private Health Facilities Bill 1999. The main policy objective of this Bill is to establish a framework for protecting the health and wellbeing of persons receiving health services at private facilities. Once again, this was a Bill that had been languishing for years in the too-hard basket of those now sitting opposite. Again, if they had wished to, they had ample opportunity to set their mark on it.

Luckily, the member for Cairns, as a health professional and a former chair of the regional health authority, carefully explained the standards and issues covered by this Bill. I thank the member for Lockyer for his sensible remarks and support, and his interest in health matters both human and animal have been noted.

The member for Chermside informed the House of the numbers of day surgery centres that are increasingly part of our health service delivery and he also recognised the importance and changing role of private health facilities, the importance of standards for those facilities and the need for ensuring high quality care for the users of those facilities while streamlining the accreditation approval processes, and I thank him for his support.

The member for Clayfield raised an issue concerning clause 16. Clause 16 does not override the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act. The Chief Health Officer cannot use a person's criminal history beyond that rehabilitation period specified in the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act when making a determination.

Mr Santoro: Do you have advice to that effect?

Mrs EDMOND: I have got advice to that effect, yes.

The member for Kurwongbah raised matters regarding the rapidly growing area of cosmetic surgery which has, to date, been outside health regulations, and this has been an area of considerable concern and has been a subject of an extensive review in New South Wales. This legislation covers some of those concerns highlighted by the New South Wales review, and other issues will be addressed by the specific health professional Bills to come before the House next year. I thank members opposite for their support for this Bill.
