



Speech by

BILL FELDMAN

MEMBER FOR CABOOLTURE

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CABOOLTURE ORAL HEALTH CLINIC

Mr FELDMAN (Caboolture—CCAQ) (10.19 a.m.): I rise in the House today to inform the Minister for Health of a growing crisis at the Redcliffe and Caboolture Health Service, in particular the Caboolture Oral Health Clinic. I wish to inform the Minister that it is not irregular for Caboolture and Bribie Island residents attending the clinic to have to arrive at the clinic between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. to get a prominent position in the queue that is forming outside the clinic at that time. The queue quite regularly extends to some 30 to 40 people, and in one letter that I have received a resident stated that the queue was some 70 people in length when he arrived some 15 minutes prior to the suggested opening time of the clinic at 7.45 a.m.

I have had requests for a toilet facility to be made available outside the clinic for those elderly and incontinent patients who attend to have emergency treatment performed at the clinic and know that they have to arrive sometimes at 6 a.m. or miss the call for their treatment.

I wish I could say that I am joking but, tragically, I am not. I have with me a sample of many letters of complaint that I have received with respect to this service, and I will table those letters with the permission of the House. I seek that permission now.

Leave granted.

Mr FELDMAN: These letters indicate queues of up to 70 people having to attend at 6 a.m. or earlier to get a prominent spot in the queue. They speak of being told of 33-month waiting lists, of 1,668 people being on the waiting list ahead of them, being told that rotting teeth are not a priority, and only if they are in agony with toothache—and very much in agony—is it regarded as an emergency.

I am asking the Minister what she can do to improve this facility, to increase the staffing, to cut the waiting lists and to help these poor battlers who are queuing at the service. One letter states—

"I have one special complaint, there are no toilet facilities open in the area prior to 7.45 a.m. This causes me at least no doubt some others some difficulty, due to a problem I have, which causes severe (incontinence). The failure to retain water for any great period of time is an embarrassment. Especially when you have to queue for several hours. It then comes down to having to seek toilet facilities"——

Time expired.
