



Speech by
**Mr DENVER
BEANLAND**

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

Hansard 2 March 2000

DISABILITY SERVICES BUDGET

Mr BEANLAND (Indooroopilly—LP) (10.11 a.m.): One of the recurrent themes when people contact my office is the desperate need for services for the direct care of people with a disability and respite services for them and their carers. The Beattie Labor Government came to office with a rash of promises to provide the world for Queenslanders with a disability. What have they done? How many promises have they kept? How much disillusionment and anger has been generated?

The members opposite promised a number of priorities in their first year of Government, yet what have we found? The centrepiece of their policy was to provide an additional \$30m per year to address the unmet lifestyle and family support needs of people with a disability. To a normal honest person, an additional \$30m per year means that the budget has \$30m added to it in year one, which becomes part of the base for the future, and then a further \$30m added in year two and likewise in year three and so on. That is certainly what the disability community expected. It is what any reasonable person reading Labor's policy expected. What has been the reality? The argument now is that \$30m, having been added to the base once, is therefore a continuing addition of \$30m for each succeeding year. Talk about doing it with smoke and mirrors!

In their first year in Government, Labor spent only \$10.4m of their budgeted \$15m. The \$30m, the so-called promise, was not fulfilled. As I say, only \$10.4m of the promised \$30m was spent in the first year. The disability community want to see the \$30m spent. They want to see the \$30m from the first year, which was a shortfall of expenditure, and no more excuses. Instead, what we have is a situation where the Labor Party have gotten themselves into the position of having to tell the disability community that they have in fact been sold a pup, because that is what has happened. Labor has sold them a pup as far as the disability services of this State are concerned. We do not find the Government fulfilling those election promises that they made so much of.
