



Speech by
**Mr DENVER
BEANLAND**

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPIILLY

Hansard 16 May 2000

CARE INDEPENDENT LIVING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Mr BEANLAND (Indooroopilly—LP) (7.11 p.m.): Recently, as the shadow Minister for Disability Services, I was invited to call on the Care Independent Living Association Incorporated on Bribie Island and discuss at its high-quality residential care facility its ongoing struggle at the hands of this Government. On many occasions this disability residential care association has met with the Beattie Labor Government seeking—without success—ongoing funding for its facility, which is worth some hundreds of thousands of dollars.

On 14 February 1999 this group met with the Premier and had meetings with Ministers Bligh, Edmond and Schwarten at a Community Cabinet meeting. In addition, it has had meetings with the Director-General of Disability Services Queensland, Mr Ken Smith, all to no avail. I understand that this association has had three fruitless meetings with Minister Bligh, the Minister for Disability Services. Moreover, I understand it has had more than one meeting with Director-General Smith.

All of the hopes and expectations generated by the rhetoric of this Labor Government among the people who go to the trouble of making submissions to and appointments to see Ministers at Community Cabinet meetings are for nought, because the Premier and these Ministers simply crush their spirits. In a mean-spirited way, the Government raises the hopes of the people attending these meetings and then it crushes them by saying no to their requests. That is what is happening at the Community Cabinet meetings. This Government has been all about hurting the people of Queensland rather than assisting them. It is falsely raising people's expectations. This is a particular concern, given that in this case these people are seeking something for others.

To date, the best the Government has done is to put in place funding packages for two of the 16 to 18 people at this facility at any one time. However, several Priority 1 rated clients and residents remain unfunded. How does this Government expect this community association to meet the ongoing needs of these people? What action will this Government take to respond—and at what cost—should the present arrangements break down and the residential care facility be forced to close, as seems inevitable if the present situation continues? Why let it break down in the first place? In desperation, these people have now gone to the media in a further attempt to obtain a fair go from this tired can't do Government. Yesterday, following media interviews, the Premier's office quickly contacted the group seeking a meeting today, which I understand has been held—yet again without success for the association.

It is clear that the only way to get any action from this Labor Government is via the lens of a television camera, as the meetings over the past 18 months have brought no satisfaction or funding but just heartbreak for this organisation. In spite of the rhetoric of this Labor Government, as I have indicated, several unfunded Priority 1 rated clients reside at this facility. For the edification of honourable members, I point out that, according to Disability Services Queensland, Priority 1 relates to people in extremely critical and urgent need who require some form of immediate intervention. What is more, there are also people in Priorities 2, 3 and 4. However, a Priority 1 rating reflects the highest possible level of need.

I note that the other day \$300,000 was found—and this was raised with me by the association—at the drop of a hat to sponsor a car at Indy, complete with the new "Beattie Burger" logo

on its side. In addition, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been found to put the "Beattie Burger" on the various stationery items of Government departments. Mr Deputy Speaker, I am sure you have received letters, as have other honourable members, with the "Beattie Burger" on the letterhead. A huge cost has been involved in the changeover of logos. However, there is nothing at all for Priority 1 rated disabled people. There is nothing at all for the Care Independent Living Association, which is looking after people in our society who are less fortunate—

Time expired.
