



Speech by
**Mr DENVER
BEANLAND**

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

Hansard 24 August 2000

DISABILITY ACCESS, RAILWAY STATIONS

Mr BEANLAND (Indooroopilly—LP) (7.26 p.m.): In the year 2000 disability access is still not available to many of our larger suburban rail stations in this city. Although I have made repeated requests for facilities for a number of stations, particularly Indooroopilly, Graceville and Sherwood, it is clear that it is not forthcoming. Indooroopilly is one of the largest stations in Brisbane. It services a wide area of people, including visitors to the shopping centre and senior citizens groups. Wheelchair access does not help just people with disabilities. It also helps mums and dads with prams and people with other special access requirements.

I am told that one of the methods used to estimate the need for wheelchair access is for people to look at the number of disability stickers in and around the station car park. That is not a very good barometer. Obviously, people with those sorts of access requirements do not use those stations; they go somewhere else. Many of the stations, such as Indooroopilly and Sherwood, are impossible to get to if one needs that sort of access. At Sherwood the neighbourhood centre has been on to me repeatedly about this issue. The local senior citizens group, the local school and the business centre have also raised the issue with me. It seems that in the year 2000 we can do all sorts of things other than provide access for people in wheelchairs, people with prams and so on.

Many of the elderly require ramps, lifts and so on; they cannot go up and down stairs. We should be encouraging people onto the public transport system and particularly our rail system. If we could revolutionise that by coordinating the bus and rail systems we could get a worthwhile public transport system in this city. It seems that the Government is prepared to do other things but not address—

Time expired.
