



Speech by

**DESLEY BOYLE**

**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

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Hansard 21 June 2000

**FAMILIES, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CARE DEPARTMENT**

**Ms BOYLE** (Cairns—ALP) (10.25 a.m.): I was amazed to hear the member for Indooroopilly, Denver Beanland, in a speech to this House on Tuesday night, criticise the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care, Anna Bligh, for creating a new position of regional director for the Cairns area in the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.

While it may have been appropriate 15 or 20 years ago, when Cairns was a much smaller town, for Government departments to have their north Queensland headquarters in Townsville and for Cairns Government offices to be subordinate to Townsville, this is no longer so, and the people of Cairns know that. Through rapid growth, through an increasingly obviously different socioeconomic profile between the Townsville region and the Cairns region, these offices now, quite appropriately, should report direct to Brisbane, not as subordinate offices to Townsville.

I am so pleased to say that, since this Government was elected, at least five Government departments that previously had their reporting arrangements via Townsville have changed, and there are now regional directors based in the Cairns area. My compliments, therefore, to Anna Bligh for the recent creation of the position of regional director for the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care in Cairns.

The member for Indooroopilly's criticism of the creation of this position, however, is the more breathtaking if members care to recall that under the Borbidge Government there was an office of that department established in Cairns—not for the department, not for a regional director, not in fact for any services to be delivered, but for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care, who was at that time Naomi Wilson. That office cost over \$2,000 in rent per month in the City of Cairns.

Time expired.

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