



Speech by

# Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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Hansard 24 August 2000

## GENETIC ENGINEERING; RADIATION THERAPY SERVICES, SUNSHINE COAST

**Miss SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—NPA) (6.59 p.m.): I take this opportunity to table a non-conforming petition that has been collected mainly on the Sunshine Coast with regard to a call for a freeze on genetic engineering. It reflects the degree of concern existing in the community with regard to this new science and its implications. I can well understand the concern of the community. There is a need to ensure that, with advancements in science, the concerns of consumers are appropriately dealt with. There needs to be a balance in this argument that gives some rights back to consumers.

I also raise the petitions that I continue to present on behalf of Sunshine Coast residents calling for improved cancer services on the Sunshine Coast. Certainly, part of that call by Sunshine Coast people, with some 9,000 signatories petitioning this Parliament, has been for the provision of a linear accelerator on the Sunshine Coast, radiation therapy services and specialist outpatient appointments. I welcome the announcement that the Government will be putting a specialist outpatient clinic into the Sunshine Coast for radiation oncology. However, I reiterate the desire of the people of the Sunshine Coast that there be the provision of radiation therapy services there.

With the advent of the new service being provided privately next year, there is a strong belief that this is an opportunity for the Government to pursue this matter. I have heard that the Minister will now consider negotiations. I urge that those negotiations have a framework and a time frame, given that this Government has been so opposed to purchasing public services from the private sector and given that the Government has been bagging the Noosa Hospital, which is providing public services through a privately owned facility. I have been most impressed with the professionalism and the ability of the staff of the Wesley Cancer Centre. This is a great opportunity. I urge the Government to put aside its philosophical differences and commit to a time frame for providing these services as soon as possible.

Time expired.

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