



Speech by

Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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PUBLIC HOSPITALS, ENTERPRISE BARGAINING

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (10.28 a.m.): The Beattie Government's priorities are about paying for bigger executive salaries with generous bonuses while leaving ordinary workers, particularly the blue collar AWU members, to hang out to dry. Meanwhile, Queensland hospitals are in the grip of industrial chaos because Health Minister Edmond thinks it is no big deal to have workers strike and that this situation is normal and acceptable. There is nothing normal about a Government failing to reach an agreement after eight months of negotiations and nearly two months after the previous agreement lapsed. It is not acceptable that this Government's arrogance is the reason parents are having to feed their sick children in hospital, that there are not enough nappies in stock for sick children and that linen is in short supply. This arrogant Beattie Government has fallen into the trap of the Goss era, believing that good polls mean they can do anything, particularly when there is not an election around the corner.

The Beattie Government has refused to detail publicly which Director-Generals and other Public Service executives have been paid fat bonuses of up to \$30,000. Meanwhile, there are hundreds of casual workers in the State's hospitals who do not have job security and who do not get these secret pay-offs of the Beattie Government fat cats. The State's hospitals and their patients are paying the price of this Government's double standards.
