



Speech by

SHAUN NELSON

MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS

Hansard 9 November 2000

HEALTH SERVICE

Mr NELSON (Tablelands—IND) (10.27 a.m.): The current Queensland Health Code of Conduct 2000 reads like an absolute tyrant's handbook. I would like to quote parts of it. No. 8 reads—

"Communication with members of parliament on matters relating to official duties or affairs of the department must be restricted to established, formal channels."

No. 14 states—

"Employees must not deliberately access, store or forward information electronically in breach of legislation, departmental policy or provisions of this code."

Over the last few months many stories have come out of the Department of Health regarding inadequate service being supplied to hospitals, inadequate operation times and people being prepped for surgery and then being sent home. As we heard from the member for Maroochydhore this morning, the Department of Health is in an absolute state. A code of conduct like this one, which stops people from addressing very important concerns that they have with their workplace and serious concerns about what is going on in hospitals in our State, tells employees to shut up and tells them further that they cannot even go to their members of Parliament. This reads like Hitler's bloody handbook on the issue of health.

Health is the most important public service we have in this State. When people get sick they sometimes need to go to hospital. When doctors are working in inadequate conditions and they need help, who can they turn to in areas like the Atherton Tablelands or the Diamantina? They should be able to turn to their local member for help. When they are stopped from being able to do that, that is just utter fascism, that is tyranny of the highest order. When they cannot even take a bit of information to their local member when they know something is wrong, that is an admission of guilt.

The Queensland Health Code of Conduct for 2000 is an admission of guilt. The Minister knows it because she has had a heap of pressure put on her by me and other members down here. She knows she has done wrong; that is why she has put out this absolute garbage. Trust me, it will cause a revolt inside her department.
