



Speech by

Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE; LOGAN HOSPITAL

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (10.27 a.m.): There have been more tragic deaths from meningococcal disease. One of the latest was a 10-month-old baby who was taken to Logan Hospital on Friday and then sent home, only to be taken back on Saturday by ambulance. That child later died. Baby Kayla Oliver's parents are obviously heartbroken. They did their best to help their child, who was normally a very healthy child. They knew that there was something wrong. They desperately need answers. This matter must be investigated. It must not be swept under the carpet.

Less than a month ago, another family presented their 17-month-old son to Logan Hospital with symptoms similar to that of meningococcal. Doctors examined the boy and assured the family that he did not have meningococcal. They told them to take the boy home and, if they thought he got worse, to bring him back. The family was not satisfied. They took him to the Mater Hospital where he was diagnosed with the disease and treated for a week. Apparently, Queensland Health advised the friends of the boy that they should be treated with antibiotics, but when those people went to Logan for antibiotics they were turned away. Apparently, Logan told them that there was no need.

These matters must be independently investigated. I am calling on the minister not only to refer the matter to the Health Rights Commissioner for an independent investigation but to also urgently review the processes and the policies in all Queensland hospitals. For the sake of the parents who have been through this situation, the minister must show compassion and accountability. Children should at least be kept in hospital overnight for observation.

The minister cannot hide this issue within the fortress of Queensland Health. It must be independently investigated and brought out in the open. Procedures must be reviewed urgently across the state. I am sorry that the minister is shaking her head, but this is an issue of grave concern. I am calling for compassion and accountability. There should at least be a change in policy so that children are kept in for observation.
