



Speech by

Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard 20 June 2001

MARYBOROUGH BASE HOSPITAL; ST STEPHEN'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (10.20 a.m.): Today I tabled a petition with 3,500 signatures calling on the Beattie government to maintain specialist services at Maryborough's public and private hospitals. The large number of signatures highlights the strength of feeling that people on the Fraser Coast have towards any decrease in services to the area. The retention of services for both the Maryborough Base Hospital and St Stephen's Private Hospital is vital for the Fraser Coast area and that petition shows how deeply the Maryborough community values both private and public hospitals. It is important that the Beattie government recognises this and realises that medical specialists must be maintained in both the public and the private sectors.

There are major concerns about downgrades at Maryborough Base Hospital. I have had staff and doctors from the local community raising these concerns. One doctor advised me that at 2 a.m. a 60 year old lady in a serious condition required urgent dialysis. Previously this had been done at Maryborough Base Hospital. The doctor rang the hospital and arranged for the treatment to be done. He was advised that the treatment could no longer be done at Maryborough hospital; the patient would have to go to Hervey Bay. The problem was that the ambulance was not in a position to take that woman to Hervey Bay.

There is a downgrade of the Maryborough Base Hospital, so the woman has to go to Hervey Bay. But the ambulance service is unable to take that woman to Hervey Bay because there is only one ambulance to cover that area and that ambulance could not be used. This doctor said, 'She can't wait; she will be dead by morning unless she receives this service.' Finally, Maryborough Base Hospital provided a vehicle without support staff for that woman to go to Hervey Bay.

This is what is happening. There has been a downgrade of Maryborough Base Hospital and yet there are not transport or ambulance services in place to take people to Hervey Bay. The people of this area are saying, 'Enough is enough.' They want to see their services returned to this hospital. They do not want to see a situation where they are left without services and transport. The local people are very concerned about these downgrades in local staff which results in these services not being provided.

Time expired.
