



Speech by

## Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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Hansard 21 June 2001

### HOSPITAL WAITING LISTS

**Miss SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—NPA) (12.27 a.m.): I rise to speak about the continuing problems caused by the lack of ophthalmology services on the Sunshine Coast. This problem has a human face. An 89 year old gentleman came to see me. He is a very sprightly and fit 89 year old gentleman. He had to wait nearly two years just to get an eye appointment. Now he could wait up to a year to get the operation that he needs on his eyes. As this gentleman says, he intends to live to be well over 100. He is not going anywhere, but he would certainly like to have his eyes fixed.

The problem is that the Health Department and the Health Minister, who have been told about the long delays in appointment times at Nambour Hospital and delays for subsequent surgery, have done nothing to act upon the information in the last two or three years that we have been raising the issue. In fact, in 1999, the gentleman was advised in writing by the hospital that he would have to wait in excess of 18 months for his appointment. In the end he had to wait for about 20 months. At the time, the Health Minister was writing and advising local members that it would take only 32 weeks, but it has been in excess of that. This gentleman cannot wait much longer, nor can a lot of other Sunshine Coast residents.

Time expired.

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