



Speech by

Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard 13 September 2001

HOSPITAL WAITING LISTS; MRS A. ROBSON

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (10.25 a.m.): Queenslanders are being told that they can wait up to six years for operations at the state's largest hospital and then still face cancellation. This outrageous and distressing situation needs to be acknowledged and addressed by the state government and not passed off as a seasonal blip, particularly at a time when the state has budgeted for one of the lowest increases in health staff numbers in the last 10 years.

One lady who told me her story in the hope of helping others, Mrs Alison Robson of Bundaberg, said that after waiting 18 months for her specialist appointment at Royal Brisbane Hospital she saw the ear, nose and throat specialist last month and was told that she had to wait not two years or three years for her surgery to help her breathe properly but up to six years. Mrs Robson also found, to her amazement, that patients were waiting years for surgery. Some have been only a week away from surgery when they have been told that their surgery has been cancelled and that they may still face long waits for their rescheduled operations. Mrs Robson said that she feels like a number, not a human being, and that she realises that there are other people out there who are in an even worse situation than herself.

This government can find millions of dollars for a dysfunctional footbridge and then spend millions more trying to make it functional. Isn't it time that the state Labor government looked to the human stories of staff and patients who need better management and funding in the state's hospitals to help restore people's health? I table Mrs Robson's letter and I call on the government to show compassion for her and others who need the government to take action in this matter.
