



Speech by

**Mrs J. SHELDON**

**MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA**

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Hansard 1 November 2001

**BETTY BYRNE HENDERSON CENTRE**

**Mrs SHELDON** (Caloundra—Lib) (10.28 a.m.): Today I would like to speak about the Betty Byrne Henderson Centre, which is affiliated with the University of Queensland and is based at the Royal Women's Hospital. This centre is researching the ageing of women and has recruited 500 women who were selected at random from the electoral roll so it can examine the issues and concerns that affect women and their health over a particular period of time. It is headed by Professor S. Khoo and Dr Sheila O'Neill, who are well known in university and health circles. The centre is critically important for research into an ageing population because of the greater increase in their numbers in Queensland than in any other state or territory. By 2031 about 26 per cent of our population will be aged more than 60 and over and the proportion of people over 85 years is expected to grow by something like 246 per cent between now and the year 2026.

To address that issue, the research is dedicated to evaluate how Queensland's representative group of women between the age of 40 and 70 years age in a variety of ways. The study is a longitudinal perspective and it is clinically based. It is multidisciplinary. It draws on a large number of experts. It is designed to look at changes over five years at least with the same individual or within a defined age group. It will provide appropriate compensations and ideas of how we can restrict ageing and, of course, the cost that has to the community.

This foundation has raised over \$1 million, a lot of which came from the Chinese community, may I add. They need more money and they are looking to the government to sponsor them on a dollar-for-dollar basis. To complete this very important research, they need about \$3.8 million. Considering that overall it is going to save us all a lot of money in the long run if women's health and the conditions that affect them when they age is looked at, and if hospitalisation and expensive health care is looked at now to see how we can prevent this occurring—

Time expired.

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