



Speech by

Mrs J. SHELDON

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Hansard 28 November 2001

CALOUNDRA DENTAL CLINIC

Mrs SHELDON (Caloundra—Lib) (10.22 a.m.): I again bring to the attention of the House the appalling lack of service at the Caloundra Dental Clinic. I shall name a few of these incidents. On 1 October, Mr Wayne Warren came in and complained that there was a three-year waiting list for general dental work. On 2 October, Mrs Irene Pullon came in to say that she had had eight cancelled appointments. Currently, there is only one dentist and one technician, and there will be no more dentists until January. On 23 October, Jack Watkins came in. He is 80-plus years. He went to the dentist with a toothache. There were about 25 people in line at 7.30 in the morning. A sign on the door said, 'Owing to the lack of staff, only nine people will be seen today.'

On 25 October, Beverley Mulhearan came in with a complaint about the dental hospital's two-year waiting list, and she had been at the dentist since 5.30 that morning and was not to be seen. On 29 October, Mrs Lister came to my office. She said that she was told she had to wait for two years to have her teeth checked. She said there was a need for emergency treatment. She needed to receive it. She is not a young woman. She waited outside well before 8 o'clock, and then from 8 o'clock on she was told only five or six people would be seen that day. She said—

I suppose one has to experience this sort of lack of treatment to feel the frustration and anger at such happenings.

On 13 November, Mr Bartlett came in complaining again about the lack of dentists and the fact that he could not be seen. On 16 November, John Irving came into my office and gave me a copy of an email he had sent to the minister, which the minister has not yet answered, and said that he found it necessary to draw her attention to the deplorable situation at the Caloundra Dental Clinic. He arrived in October at the dental clinic at 6.45 a.m. to find seven people waiting. A notice attached to the wall stated that there would be only one dentist in attendance and only approximately five persons would receive attention.

Time expired.
