



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Hansard 31 October 2001

AGED CARE

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.17 am): The Beattie government is not only secretive and arrogant, but it is also heartless. The secret police of the Health Department are now going around to old people in Queensland, particularly in the Toowoomba area, telling them that they cannot have the carers who have looked after them for, in some cases, many, many years. In some cases, people in their eighties, who have had the same carers for six to eight years, are now being told by the Queensland Health Department that carers will be rotated on a 12-month or less basis. I know of an 88-year-old lady, who is legally blind, who has had the same carer for six years. She has been told that that person will no longer care for her. Where is the holistic approach to health when looking after our elderly people? Where is the government's heart?

In addition, when people write to the department and mention things such as personal values and religious beliefs, they receive a reply that says, 'I would ask that in future communications, references are not made to religious beliefs and personal values.' That is how this government callously treats the old people of the state. The government is heartless and arrogant. It does not care about the elderly or whether they are looked after by people whom they trust and consider to be their friends.

This is another example of political correctness gone wrong. It is an example of the Left Wing lunatic side of Labor politics in this state. Next they will want to get robots in to talk to those people, because that will take out all human aspects of care. It is about time that we showed a bit of compassion and care in the Health Department in this state. It is about time that the elderly people of the state got some decent treatment. They should be able to continue being cared for by the people whom they know and trust—people who have become their friends.

In addition, they are also about to slash—
Time expired.
