



Speech by

**Mr M. HORAN**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Hansard 1 November 2001

**PUBLIC HOSPITAL FACILITIES**

**Mr HORAN** (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.15 a.m.): One of the first priorities of any government is to look after the people who are under our care. That means the provision of hospital beds, nurses and treatment. It is a heavy responsibility, but it is the No. 1 responsibility.

Running the government of Queensland is not about a whole plethora of openings, launches, media launches and relaunches. It is not about running parties, bands and dances. It is not about a never-ending stream of brochures and publicity statements. It is not about never-ending strategies all designed to provide self-promotion. What running government is about is understanding that first and foremost we have people to look after and to provide the most basic of care and the most important of care in our public hospital system. That is the very, very least the people in this state are entitled to—not parties, not openings, not launches, not hundreds of people working in the Premier's Department on self-promotion and brochures and so forth. It is about looking after the people we care for.

On any day in this state, hospital coordinators and nursing managers will tell you that they ring the major hospitals in the south-east corner looking for beds, but they cannot get beds; and if a bed is available, there are no nurses. People in this state are not getting treatment. The most basic responsibility of this state—to provide that treatment—is not there.

The very real health professionals—not the health professional has-been who says she is the minister, but the very real health professionals in this state—are the ones who are bearing the brunt of this neglect while the Premier parties on. It is time for the Premier to stop partying, stop wasting money and stop spending money on footbridges when people cannot get into a bed and get treatment. The Premier has failed the people of this state. He has failed to provide hospital beds and treatment while he parties.

Time expired.

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