



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 12 December 2001

CENSURE OF MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (6.15 p.m.): I move—

That all the words after 'House' be removed and they be replaced with:

Congratulates the Minister for Health for constantly improving the quality and quantity of services provided by the Queensland health system and for providing the outlays necessary and the leadership required to supply Queenslanders with the health and hospital services they pay for and deserve as evidenced by:

Introducing record health spending in every year that she has been Minister, increasing budgets from \$3.433 billion when Mr Horan was Health Minister in 1997-98 to \$4.06 billion in recurrent funding, plus health building projects of \$364 million—a total of \$4.424 billion;

Making it possible for more Queenslanders than ever before to have elective surgery, with an extra 20,753 people gaining non-emergency operations in two years under Ms Edmond's ministership compared with the same number under Mr Horan;

Establishing a Ministerial Taskforce into Nursing Recruitment and Retention after Mr Horan had ignored the problem and establishing a nursing career advisory service to promote nursing as a career, which resulted in a 12.25 per cent increase in nursing students enrolling and giving Queensland the lowest nursing turnover rate in seven years—about half the rate under Mr Horan;

Establishing a Ministerial Taskforce to examine nursing recruitment and retention issues and implementing its key findings;

Bringing honesty and openness to elective surgery waiting lists by publishing highly-detailed reports quarterly on the Internet in comparison to Mr Horan having to hide them in shame from any scrutiny;

Developing and implementing the \$25 million Radiation Oncology Services Plan to provide extra services—

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM: I rise to a point of order. I apologise for interrupting the Premier, but I do seek your clarification, Mr Speaker, about the validity of that amendment given its size and its appropriateness.

Mr SPEAKER: There are no standing orders about the size of an amendment.

Mr BEATTIE: I am disappointed that there is an attempt to waste time and deny my right to participate in this debate. The amendment continues—

Developing and implementing the \$25 million Radiation Oncology Services Planning to provide extra services for cancer patients across Queensland and to replace outdated equipment that Mr Horan let run down;

Introducing the Doctors in the Bush program to provide services in rural areas, when Mr Horan had ignored the bush;

Putting 17 more specialist doctors and an extra 11 nurses into emergency departments as well as better equipment and information systems to help cut waiting times;

Increasing specialist services throughout Queensland, including 13 new positions this year;

Increasing state palliative care funding from \$500,000 when Mr Horan was Minister to \$5.1 million a year;

Increasing the number of ICU Nurse Educators from two when Mr Horan was Health Minister to 20;

Increasing critical and intensive care service capacity in South East Queensland by 57 since Mr Horan was Minister;

Delivering record budgets for mental health services, including a \$59.6 million increase since Mr Horan was the Minister and creating more than 200 new mental health worker jobs;

Increasing the number of mental health beds for young people, and opening new mental health services in places such as Redcliffe, Maryborough, Redlands and Robina;

Getting the \$2.8 billion Statewide Health Building Program back on track after the Coalition's disgraceful \$80 million freeze on spending when Mr Horan was Minister;

Abolishing the punitive Horan Hospital Tax which would have taken \$165.216 million out of hospital budgets from 1998 to 2001;

Bringing more than two-thirds of all health legislation into the modern age after Mr Horan was only involved in three pieces of legislation;

Making long overdue changes to the Mental Health Act, providing the right mix of caring for people with an illness, while also maintaining the necessary protection and support for the community, victims and their families, after Mr Horan had done nothing;

Providing free parenting programs to more than 8200 Queensland mums and dads;

Expanding the services provided from child health centres to include counselling, better family support and more home visits,

Introducing the school nursing program, so that 113 specially-trained nurses are now helping 168,000 students in 236 schools across Queensland from Thursday Island to Mount Isa, Longreach and the Gold Coast on issues such as smoking prevention, body image, nutrition, alcohol and drug use, mental health, violence and suicide prevention;

Tackling the illegal drugs problem with a four-year strategic framework, 'Beyond the Quick Fix' that includes:

- providing a \$1.4 million live-in drug and alcohol withdrawal program for 13 to 18 year olds at Brisbane's Mater Hospital;

- trialling alternative treatments such as naltrexone and buprenorphine;

- extending the methadone treatment program;

- training GPs in drug detoxification treatments and early intervention;

- increasing funding for assessment and treatment services to support the Government's drug courts trial and police drug diversion initiative to break the cycle of drug addiction and crime.

I table the rest of the amendment to the motion for the information of the House.

Time expired.
