



Speech by

**Mrs J. SHELDON**

**MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA**

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Hansard 26 February 2003

### **DENTAL SERVICES**

**Mrs SHELDON** (Caloundra—Lib) (10.24 a.m.): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the continuing deplorable situation in dental services on the Sunshine Coast. This letter to me is from a pensioner. She says—

I am a disability pensioner and a diabetic. I urgently need to have my full set of teeth removed under anaesthetic for the safety of my health and life.

So far, due to the lack of anaesthetists, I have had to be postponed many times over 2002 and now it is starting all over again in 2003. My mouth is so sore—

**Mrs Edmond** interjected.

**Mrs SHELDON:** I have repeatedly taken these issues up with the minister to no avail, might I add. The letter continues—

I am unable to bite or chew and constantly feel ill from the infections that come into my gums.

These infections are eating away my jaw bones. I know that there are also many children in the same condition and still on the waiting list.

As a member of the community I wish to know just what is being done about this serious problem and why it has not been seen to as yet.

Are we the public and especially the children in this area not important to the government? I would remind you that children grow up, they remember the pain and neglect they have been left in and made to suffer through the lack of those in charge carrying out their responsibilities, and they are the future voters. Their parents are the current voters, as I am.

I implore you to do something urgently to amend this situation on behalf of your community.

This is what I am trying to do. The letter continues—

I am a member of the Queensland Cancer Fund and work continually to raise money for this important project. I need to be as fit and well as I am possibly able to be to continue. I am currently holding and putting together functions to raise money for the Challenge for Cancer Campaign and need to be able to be on board for these functions from May to September without exception. So you can see the urgency in having my mouth attended to.

I am now asking the minister if she will see that this woman, Mrs Johnson, does get the attention she has been seeking now for over three years.