



Speech by

Mrs J. SHELDON

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Hansard 13 March 2003

HEALTH SERVICES, SUNSHINE COAST

Mrs SHELDON (Caloundra—Lib) (10.26 a.m.): I again bring to the attention of the House the lack of medical services on the Sunshine Coast. During the last sitting week of parliament the minister, Wendy Edmond, said that I was misleading the House by saying that I had misrepresented people to her and that a lot of these people had received services. I draw the attention of the minister to one of the people she mentioned, although she did not mention his name. For over two years Mr Elmer has needed closure of a colostomy bag. He was put off and put off. It was then said that his heart was not good enough so he would have to have a heart operation and then could have the colostomy bag closed. Mr Elmer has had the heart operation and is still waiting for an appointment to get his colostomy bag closed.

Mr Elmer went to the hospital and put his whole history in front of them. His doctor had also put his history in front of them. Guess what? They cannot give him an appointment for at least another six months. Anyone who knows surgical procedures knows that this is a small operation. It is a small operation to close where a colostomy bag has been attached.

Mrs Edmond: It is not. It is a complex procedure.

Mrs SHELDON: So the minister knows more than his specialist and his GP. But I guess she would. It is about time justice was done for Mr Elmer and it is about time the minister saw that it was.

Mrs EDMOND: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The surgeon involved has concerns about this surgery taking place. That is what he informed my office last year. The surgeon believes it is a far more complex operation than the member for Caloundra believes it is.

Mrs SHELDON: His surgeon had said he may need the heart operation, which he has had. He has now had it, so will the minister see that Mr Elmer has his colostomy bag closed? I would like extra time, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: No, you cannot have extra time.

Mrs EDMOND: Mr Speaker, the member is misleading the House.

Mrs SHELDON: I am not at all misleading the House. The minister is, as usual.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Horan interjected.

Mrs EDMOND: It should be a clinical debate because it is the clinical condition of patients that determines priority.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order. This is not a debate.