



Speech by

Hon. K. LINGARD

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

Hansard 15 October 2003

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. K. R. LINGARD (Beaudesert—NPA) (4.19 p.m.): I rise to speak to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill. I will take a few moments to express to the minister my concern about the lack of public support in the Beaudesert area, even though we were lucky enough to receive a brand new hospital several years ago. We put up a very long fight for the Beaudesert Hospital, which originally had a magnificent maternity section. The former hospital was old and could not provide x-ray facilities and so on, so the fight for a new hospital was carried on for a long time and it was provided.

Recently I saw a full-page article in the *Beaudesert Times* headed 'Shock for mum'. A mum who was expecting post-natal care at Beaudesert was told six hours after the birth of her baby that there was absolutely no-one at the maternity section to provide that service. Once upon a time the maternity section was very large. It still is, even though the hospital does not have the required staffing.

We continually see headlines in the paper referring to people who say that they are not allowed to go to the Beaudesert Hospital for maternity because someone else is booked in at that time and two would be too many. To me, that is absolutely ridiculous. The people of Beaudesert are now losing faith in the services that are provided there and are saying, 'Why don't I go to the Mater?', or, 'Why don't I go to Logan?' I can clearly see what will happen. In a few months time the department will be able to turn around and say, 'No-one from Beaudesert is using a magnificent maternity section.' But that will be because of a lack of staff there.

I was recently approached by a constituent who was unable to receive treatment at Beaudesert Hospital. The lady was sent to the Beaudesert Hospital by a private medical practitioner who believed that she might require a procedure. She was suffering from dreadful pain and he felt that she might have a bowel blockage. She presented herself at the Beaudesert Hospital and after a wait of three-quarters of an hour she was advised to return to her private doctor because it was expected that she would experience a six-hour wait at the hospital. She was also offered the alternative of travelling to Logan Hospital.

This lady is a very public-minded person who devotes a great deal of her time in a voluntary capacity to worthy causes. She is very proud of our hospital but has become disappointed and disillusioned by the lack of care and availability of treatment at the hospital over recent years. I also say to the minister that dental services there are nothing compared with what was promised many years ago. I would ask the minister for her support to restore the faith of the Beaudesert people in what is really a magnificent brand new hospital.