



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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CHATSWORTH BY-ELECTION, LABOR CANDIDATE

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.22 am): The hilarity and the comedy is permeating the state seat of Chatsworth as we speak. This morning Peter Beattie's man in Chatsworth, Chris Forrester, is responsible for sending out the following flyer. How would people in that electorate feel if they received this? It states—

Dear—

so-and-so—

When you, your kids, your parents, anyone in your family gets sick and injured what do you want most?

I can tell honourable members that what they want most are hospitals that work. They do not want Third World witchdoctors in Queensland attending to their needs. They do not want waiting lists on which people are waiting for up to 10 years for their surgery. They do not want a situation in which people are dying on waiting lists in Queensland and dying under the hand of unqualified people in this state attending to their surgical needs. I cannot believe the audacity of this government, after all of the pain and the misery it has inflicted on the people of Queensland, and the audacity of this person, Chris Forrester, to send such a flyer around.

This morning we have heard in this parliament the government rallying to save ducks and quails. However, this government cannot even ensure the safety of our kids or the patients in our hospitals. It is a matter of getting the basics right in Queensland, and the government has failed.

This letter goes on to say, 'Keep your voice in the Beattie government'. The only way the people in that electorate are going to get a voice in the parliament that matters is to vote for Michael Caltabiano.

Government members: Ha, ha!

Mr SPRINGBORG: Members opposite can laugh, but I ask everyone here to consider this: the good people of Burnett had a voice in this parliament and it worked. The good people of Bundaberg had a voice in the government and in the cabinet in Nita Cunningham and it did not work. So if the people vote for this person who does not understand the basic issues, they are going to have more silence in Chatsworth, more of the neglect and more of the problems in Queensland Health that we have seen permeate under this government that does not care about the basics.