



Speech by

Peter Wellington

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard Wednesday, 9 August 2006

HEALTH SYSTEM

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (10.11 pm): I rise to speak to the motion moved earlier this evening by the new Leader of the Liberal Party and also to the amendment moved in response by the Minister for Health. Unfortunately, I was not offered the opportunity to participate in the debate on that motion and the amendment, so I take this opportunity to speak to the motion and the issues raised during the debate. In reflecting on the respective contributions made by the various speakers during that hour-long debate, I say that I am disappointed that the best we were able to hear from the new Liberal leader was criticism and not an alternative policy on how we may be able to improve the current delivery of health services in Queensland.

Over recent days and weeks we have heard a lot of rumours about an impending election. More importantly, we have heard comments from the opposition benches about when an election is likely to be called. I would have thought that members on this side of the House would have found this to be a wonderful opportunity to not just criticise but to put their alternative credentials on the table so all Queenslanders could actually see their alternative policies and how they propose to change and improve the delivery of health services in Queensland. We all can play an important part in trying to improve the delivery of health services in Queensland. It is so easy to stand in this chamber and throw bricks and criticise. Anyone can criticise, but I believe the opposition has an important responsibility at this important stage of the political life of this parliament to actually use every opportunity to not just criticise but to put forward some well-argued and well-reasoned alternatives on how it proposes to improve the delivery of health services in Queensland.

It was only on Tuesday evening that the Minister for Health took time out of his busy schedule to invite me to visit a health facility in the Brisbane area to try to respond to some of the issues that I have been pursuing for the constituents of the Sunshine Coast. Earlier this week the minister took time to try to respond to some of the issues I have been pursuing, and I thank the minister for that. I also believe that if an alternative government wants to present its credentials it should be putting that material before this House so that we can actually go through and analyse them and speak in an informed manner about those alternatives. Yes, the state government has allocated significant dollars to try to respond to our concerns. There certainly is a long way to go and there is no doubt that the government has had ample time to bring about significant improvements to our current health system in Queensland.

Time expired.