



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2007

QUEENSLAND HEALTH INTERPRETER SERVICE

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (11.53 am): I want to refer to comments that the Premier made this morning about her government being an example of fiscal rectitude and that in health it is looking for the best outcomes on the front line. Let us look at the new Queensland Health Interpreter Service, QHIS, due to be released on 24 November 2007. It was due to be released in June 2007. The implementation has been in the pipeline for close to two years. It is now running at approximately 60 per cent to 70 per cent over budget. That does not sound like good fiscal rectitude to me. The QHIS is still not likely to be fully operational until at least July 2008, when it will come to fruition.

November 2007 will start with a manual system to replace a system. That is where the most alarming waste of money has been so far—that is, the money spent on the development of a database by Queensland Health, which is close to \$380,000 and still climbing. It is still eight months off from being implemented some time around June 2008 if there are no more cost blow-outs. The multicultural team, I am advised, who were in control were in fact offered the option of three other proven databases but the experts elected against operational advice to create their own database. The problem has had to be counteracted by employing highly paid staff, AO7s and AO5s, on a short-term basis until June 2008 and then substituting them with AO3s, lower paid staff, to run the system if and when it is ready to be activated. Here we see an example of money being wasted and the budget overrun.

There is also some \$3.5 million being spent to set up a stand-alone Medical Board when registration is going to be done on a national basis. Let us compare and contrast that with the Princess Alexandra Hospital, which had a 2½ per cent budget overrun but an eight per cent increase in procedures. That is exactly what Peter Forster said in his September 2005 review that we should see in Queensland Health—more clinical outcomes. The Princess Alexandra Hospital is the pre-eminent southside hospital. It takes patients from Logan, Ipswich, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast. It is never on bypass. Under clinical CEO Dr David Theile, it is doing a great job.

Time expired.