



Speech by

Hon. Kerry Shine

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

Hansard Tuesday, 13 March 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Patel, Dr J; Meeting with Former Patients

Hon. KG SHINE (Toowoomba North—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland) (9.58 am): Last night I met with former patients of Jayant Patel in Bundaberg. I want to thank the former patients and their family members for attending the meetings. I also want to thank the members for Bundaberg and Burnett for attending. I was joined by representatives from Crown law and the Health Quality and Complaints Commission. A representative from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions also met with former patients immediately after my meeting. My meetings were constructive, and I note that Beryl Crosby told the *NewsMail* that the meeting had 'gone very well'. Others are quoted in today's paper as being happy with how the meeting turned out, with things being made clearer and being pleased that I had attended to hear what people had to say.

At the meeting we discussed the progress of the special process developed by the government to provide fair and reasonable compensation for the former Patel patients. I was able to report that 189 of the 383 claims have now been settled. That is almost half of the total claims. A range of issues was raised with me regarding the eligibility of claims by former Patel patients with an adverse outcome, the ongoing medical treatment for these patients, the settlement of claims and the police investigation into Darren Keating.

A number of people I met also raised issues about their legal representation in the special process. If any claimant has concerns about their legal representation, they should raise those issues with the independent Legal Services Commission. I told the former patients that the government is committed to the special process and to ensuring that outstanding claims are dealt with fairly.