



Speech by

Hon. Kevin Lingard

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

Hansard Wednesday, 8 August 2007

BOONAH HOSPITAL

Hon. KR LINGARD (Beaudesert—NPA) (11.01 pm): I have very serious concerns that the Boonah District Hospital X-ray facilities have been treated shabbily by Queensland Health. The proposals to replace wet film X-ray processes with computerised radiography units was supported by the Boonah hospital, which spent over \$7,000 of its own operational capital to upgrade X-ray rooms at the hospital. This project is referred to as the JNET project. The benefits of computerised radiography are that electronic images can be transferred online for reporting and referral, there is improved image quality with the potential to reduce repeat X-rays and it permits remote quality review by supervising radiographers for operator sites.

The community had been told that this equipment would be in place by 6 August and during the three weeks of upgrade patients were transferred to Ipswich. They were not just the hospital patients; they were also private patients because we have to realise that a private doctor can work in this country hospital and private doctors from outside can use the X-ray facilities. However, the new equipment for Boonah, and I believe 70 hospitals around Queensland, has been held in Brisbane and installation by Fuji has been delayed. I believe it takes three days for Fuji to complete this as long as everything is in place. But remember that this particular hospital out of its own operational funds spent \$7,000 to have its rooms upgraded.

To keep faith with the local requirements for Boonah hospital, it has had to reinstall previous equipment and it now uses blackout facilities behind windows with paper and sticky tape. So quite obviously the community believes that the people who are taking the X-rays are now hiding behind a window with sticky paper. However, I do know that that sticky paper is there so they can have their blackout facilities.

Queensland Health cannot continue to hide behind the excuse that there are not enough doctors when this type of bureaucracy continues. I believe the equipment is in Brisbane, as is the equipment for 70 other hospitals. Boonah hospital has cooperated and spent \$7,000 of its own money. The people of Boonah—both private and public patients—have travelled to Ipswich for three weeks, yet the clinical and statewide services have not been able to coordinate the JNET project.