



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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NORTH SIDE HAEMATOLOGY SERVICES

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (11.58 am): I rise to speak about an issue that has been canvassed in this place before, and it is an issue in the Northside Health Service District about a campaign for more haematology services. I know that this issue has been raised by the member for Pumicestone and the member for Glass House, who have both attended rallies. Recently I took possession of 580 petitions at Harvey Norman in Morayfield—the member for Kallangur was there—on a Saturday to mark the coming down of Business Professional Women's Association President, Debbie Biancucci, from her 24-hour vigil above the centre to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation and for awareness of the shortage of haematologists in the Northside Health Service District. A number of rallies have been held. It started after the loss of the full-time haematologist in July 2007. Rallies have been held on 22 October 2007 and 23 February 2008. Debbie said that she was none the worse for wear. She had enjoyed her stint 10 metres up. She had slept out overnight at the top of the scissor lift in the car park at Harvey Norman. She said that she was buoyed by the response to her efforts. She handed the petitions to me. There are 580 petitions, and I wish to table them now.

Tabled paper: 3 bundles of non-conforming petitions relating to the Northside Health Service District.

They raised \$11,000, which is certainly a worthy effort.

I note there was a letter from the health minister to the then mayor, Councillor Joy Leishman, dated 19 February 2008 in which she states—

The Royal Brisbane and Women's Haematology Service is currently supporting Redcliffe Hospital through a haematology service which includes supervision of a number of patients undergoing chemotherapy and outpatient consulting.

The letter states further that these people are very aware of the following—

... that haematology is a super specialised area of medicine and that many haematology patients need to be seen within a tertiary environment.

But really, these are not just clinical matters; these are matters relating to patient education, patient communication and planning, and workforce planning specifically—something the Auditor-General has pointed out that Queensland Health needs to improve on in a couple of his reports—as well as the fact that Queensland Health needs to improve on capital works planning and annual reports that do not match up with what it says it is doing. I call on the Minister for Health to explain to each of the signatories to this petition why services cannot be provided and what future plans Queensland Health has for additional services to be allocated. These motivated people need more than platitudes.