



Speech by

Ted Sorensen

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Hansard Wednesday, 28 October 2009

HERVEY BAY HOSPITAL

Mr SORENSEN (Hervey Bay—LNP) (10.13 pm): I rise to talk about two families in Hervey Bay that have had to deal with the emotional turmoil of losing loved ones. The loss and desperation they are currently suffering is made worse by the dismay and confusion that basic health care and assessment was not afforded to them or their loved ones through our health system. In *Hansard* on 19 October 2009 the Minister for Health stated—

Please do not challenge me to a discussion at length on health.

I challenge the Minister for Health to a discussion at length about the Hervey Bay Hospital and its extended, exhausted service delivery and tired and resigning nursing staff that just cannot keep up. I want to talk to him about poor Mavis Jameson. Mavis was turned away from the emergency department of the Hervey Bay Hospital with no scans, no tests and a diagnosis of dehydration. She was still in pain when she was bundled into a taxi at 9.30 pm and returned home to her elderly husband. Her husband was telling them that she had the exact same symptoms of bowel obstruction as he had seen many times before. When people are turned away, they are lost. Mavis's husband, Colin, had a horrid night with his wife in pain. The next morning he went to their own GP and told him what had happened. The GP told Colin to go back home and call the ambulance and get Mavis back to hospital. The GP said that he would ring the Hervey Bay Hospital emergency department to expect them. He knew how urgent it was that Mavis be admitted to hospital. By all reports he was angry. Mavis had emergency surgery two days after she should have had it. It is no surprise that Mavis is now in heaven. It was explained to the family that she had died of septicaemia and a heart attack. It does not say that on the death certificate.

I challenge the health minister to a discussion at length about the appalling care and assessment of Toni Powell. Glen and Toni have had three children and Toni knows how her pregnancies go. Toni has high blood pressure when she is pregnant. Everybody in this room knows that high blood pressure and pregnancy are a volatile cocktail and a recipe for a sad outcome for mother and baby if not monitored. Toni was told early in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy that it would not go full term; it would be the same as it was with her previous children. True to form and history, Toni developed high blood pressure. Toni was pleading to be induced late in her pregnancy. After all, she had been induced with her other two children.

(Time expired)