



Speech by

Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Wednesday, 24 March 2010

SUNSHINE COAST UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (10.24 pm): I rise this evening to draw to the attention of the House, in particular the Minister for Health, the plight of all Sunshine Coast residents and their substandard health services. The delay of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital from 2014 to 2016 illustrates this government's view that health services do not need urgent attention. Well, the minister himself needs a serious health check. My office continually receives complaints from constituents in my electorate regarding the public system on the Sunshine Coast and its inability to cope with the provision of services in a region that continues to increase in population.

Mr Hoolihan interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: If the member for Keppel does not want to hear it I will sing it louder. Ambulance ramping, patients being treated in storage rooms and an emergency department continually on bypass are all signs of a health service in absolute freefall. The doctors and nurses at the Nambour Hospital are wonderful and they do an exceptional job in very trying circumstances, but they are severely underresourced and overstretched. The issue on the Sunshine Coast is beds and more beds. We have heard from the AMAQ and the SCLMA that when the Sunshine Coast University Hospital is finally built there will be a need for another one the same size to pick up on the population growth on the Sunshine Coast.

I constantly ask the Minister for Health questions on notice in relation to the timetable of the hospital, both public and private. The answer is always the same. Nothing is happening. There is not even a government sign on the site. The government usually spends taxpayers' money on signs saying 'Look what we are doing for the great Sunshine Coast'. There is not even a sign on the site. Had our protest signs not been on it people would not know it is a hospital site.

Quite simply, the Sunshine Coast needs hospital beds and it needs them now rather than spin doctors and bureaucracy. We have a bunch of spin doctors on the other side of the House. We need more doctors and nurses. We need to cut through the red tape. We need beds, nurses and doctors. We need a Sunshine Coast University Hospital. It would be a great start in actually improving the provision of services. I have asked the health minister three questions on notice. There is a Sunshine Coast University Hospital project team and I have asked three questions on notice in relation to who serves on this hospital project team and who is on the stakeholder advisory committee. As I said two weeks ago in this place, the government's own health website has not been updated since 31 March 2008. Do members know what it says? 'Get involved'. How can one get involved? What has happened? In the last two years how many people have requested to be involved? Just get on with the job and build the hospital. We need the beds now.