



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 24 February 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Katie Rose Cottage

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (12.06 pm), by leave: A new state government planning code has paved the way for a much-needed palliative care development on the Sunshine Coast. Following the introduction of the code, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council unanimously agreed to endorse a local planning instrument to reduce red tape for a proposed community residence development.

Katie Rose Cottage, in the hinterland community of Doonan, west of Noosa, is now, I understand, ready to open and help terminally ill Sunshine Coast people to die with dignity. The small facility is the realisation of a dream for palliative care nurses Terry Clarke-Burrows and Sue Story, who spent the last two years working to make the cottage a reality.

This valuable service equally would not have been possible without the member for Nicklin. It was the member for Nicklin who first brought Katie Rose Cottage to the state government's attention with a private member's bill to amend the Integrated Planning Act on 28 October. The member for Nicklin pushed for change at state and local levels, and it is largely due to his efforts that Katie Rose Cottage can now open its doors.

The Bligh government recognises that there is a need for more similar facilities. On 18 December the state government finalised changes to the planning laws to allow councils to amend planning schemes and permit residential homes to become palliative care hospices, with up to six guest rooms in each house. I would like to congratulate the Sunshine Coast Regional Council for being the first local government in Queensland to implement this policy, and provide additional dignity and comfort to terminally ill community members when they need it most. I hope their decision encourages other councils to provide similar much-needed care facilities for terminally ill patients and their families within their local planning schemes. I would again like to commend Mrs Clarke-Burrows, Mrs Story and the member for Nicklin for their dedication and hard work.