




Speech by

Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Tuesday, 30 October 2012

MOTION: AGED CARE

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.14 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Bundamba and debated in this House this evening. I note once again the government's lack of consultation when it comes to issues regarding people. This is a government that simply does not care. On Saturday, I was out there with the shadow health minister and the Deputy Prime Minister talking to the residents of Brighton and Sandgate about what this government had decided to do. What do they want to do? They want to close down Eventide. They want to close down aged-care facilities across this state. There has been no consultation with the community about their actions; they just want to close them down. There has been no explanation. All we hear from the health minister is that it was the health board's decision. We all know that the health boards report to one person. If honourable members do not believe me, look at the legislation. It is very clearly written in the legislation that the health boards report to the health minister. The health minister is clearly responsible for the distress that is occurring out there in the community. I want to talk about that distress because I was out there talking to the families, who are feeling betrayed, about how they feel about what is going to happen to their loved ones.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They can interject all they like, but out there on the ground there is a harsh reality and that is that this is a government that shows no compassion, a government that does not care and a government that is happy to abandon its constituents with no explanation. Where does the member for Sandgate stand tonight on this debate? The member for Sandgate was there on Saturday but is not prepared to stand up for her community. I notice that the member for Lytton was here tonight.

Madam SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I remind you in respect—

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw. The member for Lytton got up and spoke in this House tonight. The member for Lytton is going to be in for a rude shock when the next election comes around because his constituents care about what is happening and they care about the future of that hospital. If he does not start standing up for his constituents, his time in this House may be well and truly brief.

I was there on Saturday talking to a family whose father had passed away at Eventide. They said to me that the care that was shown to their father was out of this world. They commended the work of the nurses. They commended the care that was shown to the father. Now they are all concerned about where these people are going to go.

Mr Ruthenberg: Fantastic!

Ms PALASZCZUK: What are your plans about where these people are going to go? This is your decision. The Labor government did not close down these aged-care homes. This is clearly a decision of the health minister, and every single person in this House who is a member of the LNP government needs to share the responsibility for that decision that has been made by the health minister and the government.

As I said, this is a government that has no heart—a government that does not care, a government that does not consult, a government that does not understand the communities its members represent. If

government members did care about the communities they represent, they would be pounding on the door of the health minister and saying, 'What you are doing is simply not right.' We have seen time and time again cuts to services and cuts to people's jobs. We do not know what is going to happen to the people who are employed at these nursing homes. This is a government that has not consulted and is taking people's lives into its own hands. The distress that is causing to those people is something we have not seen in this state before.

(Time expired)