



Speech by
Glen Elmes

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard Wednesday, 10 October 2007

QUEENSLAND HEALTH

Mr ELMES (Noosa—Lib) (12.02 pm): I would like to bring to the notice of the House the complete failure of Queensland Health in the case of a constituent of mine, Paul Asquith. Mr Asquith came to my office on 26 September in severe pain and gave me the following account of his treatment: he went to the emergency department at Nambour Hospital in the first couple of days of September with severe bowel pain. After a long wait he was told that he had an infection, was given medication and sent home. About a week later the pain was worse so back to the emergency department he went, underwent more tests and was sent home again. With still no improvement and in pain and several visits to his GP later, he went to Nambour Hospital for a third time—he thinks on 20 September—and was admitted. More tests were done, including CT scans and ultrasound. He was told that he would also need to have an endoscopy and a colonoscopy. He was discharged with the impression that the tests would be done in a couple of days. Paul has since been told by the hospital, 'We don't have anyone here who does scopes,' and that it would be some time before the tests could be done.

His wife called the hospital on 26 September and was told that one of the procedures could be done in about two weeks. It was at this point that he came to see me. My inquiries with the hospital revealed that his wait would be at least five weeks just to find out what was wrong with him. That is over two months in severe pain and with the mental anguish that goes along with it. I wrote to the minister on 27 September and I table a copy of the letter outlining the case.

Tabled paper: Copy of a letter, dated 27 September 2007, from Mr Elmes to the Minister for Health (Hon. Robertson MP) relating to Nambour Hospital.

I am still waiting for a reply. In the meantime I have been in contact with a friend of mine who is a specialist gastroenterologist, Dr Don Walker. I am pleased to be able to inform the House that Paul Asquith has an appointment with Dr Walker for next Tuesday afternoon to have the required tests and that he will be bulk-billed. I thank Dr Don Walker, as does Paul Asquith. All of us, though, are at a loss to find the words that best describe our so-called health system.