

Mr ANDRIANOPOULOS (St Albans)-It is an honour for me to address the Victorian Parliament today. I take honourable members back to a December day in 1965 when a passenger liner docked in Melbourne. Amongst the passengers were 1200 migrants, including a Greek farmer, his wife and two children. It is of special pride to me that I came from such a humble background and am now able to address the Victorian Parliament. I have lived in St Albans for almost the entire time I have been in Australia. I have found this to be a difficult and harrowing experience, and I am sure the residents of St Albans and the western suburbs have had similar experiences.

I say that because the region is inhabited predominantly by blue-collar workers, the majority of whom are employed in semi-skilled and unskilled work in the manufacturing, construction and transport industries. Educational achievement in the western suburbs is generally lower than that in the rest of Victoria.

Income levels are also lower, with most families having to depend on two incomes to survive. Unemployment levels in the western suburbs are some of the highest in the State, with young people, women, migrants and older, unskilled workers being especially at risk.

This has been fairly well documented in recent years by Government and community studies as well as in media coverage, and the degree to which the western suburbs have been disadvantaged is now generally accepted. To illustrate the point I shall quote from a recent study commissioned by the Victorian Government and entitled "The Bus Reorganization Study-St Albans Neighbourhood", which states, inter alia:

Public transport provision is lower in this area than in most other areas in Melbourne. This combination of high population need for access to facilities, lower levels of facility provision within the area and low levels of public transport service, both within the area and other adjacent areas, creates a situation of fairly substantial disadvantage.

An even more dramatic illustration of the disadvantages experienced in the St Albans and western regions was highlighted in a report commissioned by the Government during 1984 concerning the health area. I refer to the Report of the Capital Requirements of Publicly Funded Health Services in Victoria for the Next Ten Years, commonly known as the John McClelland report. When commenting on region 6, sub-region 61, which is the western metropolitan area, the report stated:

There is a low provision of acute beds and accordingly this sub-region relies heavily on the inner metropolitan area for services. It is proposed that progressively beds should be decanted into the sub-region and it is recommended that Prince Henry's should be transferred by stages to Sunshine, Even after adjustment for beds and specialists hospitals which service other regions the inclusion of Prince Henry's Hospital in the region and the pending removal of the Queen Victoria Medical Centre from the region the provision of beds relative to the population is the lowest of any region in the State.

One can see from that report how disadvantaged the western suburbs are. I shall now give the reason I am standing here today with the overwhelming support of the people of the St Albans electorate. The people of St Albans believe in the undying principle of the Australian Labor Party to work through the Parliamentary process for the redistribution of political and economic power so that all - and I stress the word "all" - members of society have the opportunity of participating in the shaping and controlling of the institutions and relationships that determine their lives.

The people of St Albans have seen that for the first time the actions of the Government have looked after their interests. With the findings of the bus service reorganization study and the effects of the public transport system in the electorate, I am sure the House will be aware that on 19 March 1985 the Minister for Transport delivered the goods. A new bus route system was introduced in the St Albans area. Thirteen new bus routes were introduced which was a dramatic increase on the existing four.

Honourable members would be aware of the Government's decision to relocate Prince Henry's Hospital to Sunshine. I and other members of the Government will advocate similar redistributions of resources for the western suburbs during the next four years. I stress the importance of the relocation of Prince Henry's Hospital because I am sure that some members of the Opposition in another place are opposed to the move. A member of the Liberal Party ran a campaign against the relocation of Prince Henry's Hospital during the election campaign, but if one logically examines the financial situation reported in the McClelland report, the numerous welfare studies carried out by municipal councils and welfare agencies, and by the Government, one could not possibly argue against the logic of the relocation.

In its last term of office the former Liberal Government decided to erect a hospital in Sunshine. That Government wasted \$13.5 million of the taxpayers' money.

Mr Coleman-Who did that?

Mr ANDRIANOPOULOS- It was the Liberal Government not the Labor Government. The Liberal Party is responsible for the erection of a white elephant; 80 per cent of the floor space of the existing building is unoccupied. The only occupants are the millipedes that infest the area. The former Liberal administration did not consider the economics of running a hospital and that is why the shell exists in Sunshine.

The present Government faced up to its responsibilities. It understood the difficulties of running a hospital and was aware of the massive expenditure involved in its operation. As a result it decided to relocate Prince Henry's Hospital. The figures released in the McClelland report show that although the metropolitan average for hospital beds per 1000 head of population is 5.07 per cent, it is a mere 3.54 per cent in the western suburbs. One shudders to think what the figure would be for the inner region of Melbourne. I am willing to take on members of the Opposition on this issue, as I am sure colleagues in another place are also, to ensure that the relocation takes place. It will provide much needed hospital facilities for the western region of Melbourne.

The Government has produced a blueprint to cure youth unemployment. The youth guarantee program will strive to provide either employment or training for children between the ages of fifteen and eighteen years.

One area of unemployment to which I am committed to finding a solution is where unemployment has been created as a result of the ravages of capitalism. Thousands and thousands of people were brought to this country as factory fodder. Unfortunately, technology and a motive to maintain profits has caught up with those migrants. Unskilled migrants who were brought to Australia during the 1950s and 1960s are finding themselves permanently unemployed between the ages of 40 to 45 years. They often have no prospect of employment for the next fifteen to twenty years of their working lives. Only through Government intervention and Government spending can a solution to this problem be found. Those migrants came to Australia in good faith. They were willing to live out the rest of their lives in this country and were willing to participate to the fullest

of their ability in Australian life. The Government must face up to that problem. I am willing to offer my knowledge and expertise in an attempt to find a solution to the problem.

It would be remiss of me during my maiden speech not to record my appreciation of the overwhelming support I received from my constituents. I will work tirelessly for the benefit of the electorate and I will not hesitate to make representations to Ministers on behalf of any constituents who approach me. I also record my appreciation for the hard work carried out by my campaign committee. On behalf of those I represent in the electorate, I pass on their appreciation for the work of my colleague, the former member for Keilor, Mr Seitz.