



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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CLEVELAND MEALS ON WHEELS ASSOCIATION

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (10.02 a.m.): Today I rise to pay tribute to the volunteers and management committee of the Cleveland Meals on Wheels Association. In the past financial year alone, Cleveland Meals on Wheels volunteers have delivered almost 25,000 meals in the Cleveland area and on North Stradbroke Island. Without this valuable program many people would have to face the difficult choice of leaving their home to go into respite, hostel or nursing home care.

The volunteers give people the opportunity to retain their independence. Meals on Wheels also offers its clients a link to the community through friendships which they extend every time they deliver a meal, with many of their clients often experiencing the difficulties that result from being bound to their homes. I thank all those who volunteer their time. In particular, I dedicate this speech to the dedicated life members of Cleveland Meals on Wheels—Jean Floate, Edith Macfarlane, Frances Simpson and Frank Tranter—for their lifelong commitment to community service. Their example resonates the sentiments of the recent Seniors Week—"Too Old? Never!" This could be no more true than in the case of Mrs Edith Macfarlane, who just this year celebrated her 95th birthday. While still keeping her hand in at the Meals on Wheels kitchen, Mrs Macfarlane manages all of the youngsters who prepare the food for the association's kitchen. I acknowledge also Mrs Frances Simpson—82 years old this year—who acts as liaison officer for the association.

The Cleveland Meals on Wheels has recently been given a \$10,000 grant for additional freezer space for the storage of meals from the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund—a program established by the Goss Labor Government in 1994. I am pleased that the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund has been able to find available funding to support this community service. I believe it is important that the Government takes an active partnership with community service organisations. I congratulate the Beattie Government on continuing a Labor initiative that supports everyday people to achieve extraordinary things for our local communities, as is the case with Cleveland Meals on Wheels.
