



Speech by

**KAREN STRUTHERS**

**MEMBER FOR ARCHERFIELD**

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Hansard 17 September 1998

**STROKE SUPPORT GROUP**

**Ms STRUTHERS** (Archerfield—ALP) (10.20 a.m.): Unlike my colleagues this morning, I do not propose to talk about Rugby League. I intend to talk about the invaluable time and effort that many community members volunteer to keep our sporting groups, community services, P & Cs and other voluntary associations running. This effort contributes significantly to economic and social life in this State.

It is difficult to put a monetary value on it, but some gauge of this massive effort is given in the following national figures. Lyons concluded that more than 1.3 million people donated a total of 95 million volunteer hours to community social welfare groups in Australia in 1994. When all non-profit organisations are considered, the figure becomes an amazing 374 million hours.

Today I highlight and pay tribute to a voluntary group that has just commenced in the electorate of Archerfield—the Stroke Support Group in Acacia Ridge. This group has been initiated by stroke sufferers and carers—mainly young people whose lives have been shattered by stroke. Most of us think of stroke as affecting older people. Many of the young people in the group have young families. Many had active lives and demanding jobs. Now, much of this has changed. I mention two members of the group, Sue Stewart and Bob McKay. Both had strokes in their early 40s. Sue said to me recently—

"You could be enjoying breakfast one morning, then by lunch time you could be like me."

It is a frightening thought that stroke can hit both young and older people suddenly and indiscriminately. This group has had difficulty raising funds. It is its hope and mine that it will attract local, State or Federal funding to maintain and expand its efforts. I wish it every success.

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