



Speech by

LINDY NELSON-CARR

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard 22 October 1998

MR H. MAROROA

Ms NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (7.07 p.m.): I would like to recognise and commend the efforts of many community groups in Townsville for their tireless endeavours to raise funds for Mr Harold Maroroa. In doing so, I must also congratulate the organiser of fundraising, Ms Anne Brooke Wagner. Soon after we were elected to office, Anne approached me detailing Harold's plight. Last September, Harold suffered renal failure. He fell into a coma and an emergency evacuation from his home in PNG brought him to Townsville. Harold arrived in Townsville in crisis without family or friends. He recovered from a two-week comatose condition and is now receiving treatment for his illness at the Townsville General Hospital.

Harold is currently on dialysis three days a week and has reached a satisfactory level of health. The high cost of treatment, accommodation and living expenses since his arrival over a year ago has totally consumed his financial resources. If it were not for community and church support, Harold's position would be extremely troubled. Harold's wife, Faith, and youngest son, Harry, have come down to be with him during his ordeal and are being housed at Red Cross House. During the months in Townsville, family and community desperately tried to raise funds for the life-saving operation. A live kidney transplant is planned at Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital and Harold's younger brother is to be the donor. Anne Brooke Wagner consulted with me as soon as we were elected and the process to provide funds at last began. The Health Minister, Wendy Edmond, acted immediately and the State Labor Government will fund the kidney transplant for Harold Maroroa. That decision will allow Harold to return to work as a PNG Government builder and allow his family to resume a normal life back in their home country. I am pleased to say that Harold's brother arrives next week and the operation can now proceed.

That story is an example of how communities can achieve desirable results by working actively and cohesively and involving a committed Government. This Government is listening to the grassroots. This Government is proactive. I congratulate the efforts of all those involved in effective community consultation, but thanks must go to the Minister for her prompt action during our first couple of months in Government.

Time expired.
