



Speech by

**Mr TIM MULHERIN**

**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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Hansard 17 September 1998

**MR G. HUEGILL**

**Mr MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (10.30 p.m.): All Queenslanders are proud of our Commonwealth Games team competing in Kuala Lumpur. The people of Mackay are especially proud, because we can boast of being the home town of a young man who not only won a gold medal but, in doing so, set a new Commonwealth Games record. I am referring of course to Geoff Huegill.

Geoff won gold and clocked the new Commonwealth Games record of 52.81 seconds in the 100 metres butterfly. He led the way for an Australian trifecta, with Adam Pine placing second and Michael Klim third. I congratulate Geoff on his fantastic swim. He must be so proud to have achieved what many can only wish for—not only to participate in the Commonwealth Games but also to come back home with a gold medal.

Mackay is well known as a very sport-oriented city and is proud to be known as home to many talented sportsmen and women who have gone on to compete in State, national and international sporting events. The marvellous performances by Geoff and all his Australian team-mates has given us a wonderful boost towards the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. We know that Australia has a multitude of young talented sportspeople and we look forward to seeing them compete at the Olympic Games in two years.

I offer special congratulations to Geoff's mother, Mrs Jum Huegill, who celebrated Geoff's win with friends and other well wishers who streamed into her shop to offer their congratulations. Geoff and his family came to Mackay in 1981. While living in Mackay, he was trained by Kevin and Julie Knight of the Paradise Swim Centre and Pat Wright of the Mackay Amateur Swimming Club. During this time, Geoff won district, north Queensland and national championships in both butterfly and backstroke.

Mr Speaker, to further his sporting ambition, Geoff moved to your electorate of Redcliffe in 1990, where he came under the coaching wing of Ken Wood. He has since dropped backstroke in order to concentrate, most successfully I might add, on his favoured event—the 100 metres butterfly. I know that the people of Mackay are very proud of Geoff's effort. He has become the talk of the town and will go down in the city's great sporting history. He competes tonight in the relay event, and I join with the rest of Australia in wishing him and his relay team-mates every success.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member's time has expired. He might be interested to know that Geoff has just won another gold medal for the medley relay—it's the good air at Redcliffe.

**Mr MULHERIN:** That is great, Mr Speaker.

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