



Speech by

KEN TURNER

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Hansard 28 April 1999

TWIN CITIES LEISURE ACCESSIBLE INCORPORATED

Mr TURNER (Thuringowa—IND) (10.26 a.m.): I inform the House that I have been attempting to obtain a fishing vessel suitable for the elderly and people with a disability. A recreation and leisure organisation had to be formed and funding for the fishing boat project is being investigated.

On 20 April 1999, a public meeting was held at the Townsville RSL Club, which was attended by representatives from aged and disabled organisations in the twin cities area. This was a very important meeting aimed at establishing a recreation club, which will provide another step towards equal opportunities in our community.

There are people in our community who, because of age or disability, are unable to participate in their favourite recreation. They are not incapable of doing so, but their special needs have not been met. I hope that this club will work to provide those special needs so that the elderly and people with a disability can enjoy recreational activities that were previously inaccessible to them. It is important for people with a disability to have their own recreational organisations because, although their recreational interests are the same as those of the abled, the equipment required to participate in those interests is drastically different.

A great deal of excitement was created by the idea of a fishing vessel constructed specifically to meet the needs of people with a disability. I envisage that this vessel would become part of a total package made up of equipment that was designed and created to meet special recreational needs.

The keen response from the representatives of the aged organisations was most welcome and all in attendance at the meeting very enthusiastic. A steering committee was formed and will hold the first meeting of Twin Cities Leisure Accessible Incorporated on 5 May 1999.

By their very nature, recreational organisations lend themselves to promoting the integration of the community by allowing members to meet new people, make new friends and cement fellowships. To combine these aspects with recreation makes this kind of organisation an essential part of community life. My congratulations and best wishes go to the members of Twin Cities Leisure Accessible Incorporated. I hope that the success of this club will be a pilot for more such clubs throughout Queensland.

Time expired.
