



Speech by

**LINDA LAVARCH**

**STATE MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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Hansard 27 April 1999

**PROJECT HOPE**

**Mrs LAVARCH** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.29 a.m.): Last Wednesday, Brisbane was witness to the power of mothers' love—the power which overcame all political, cultural and language divides to unite two communities in a common goal to give children a life and parents hope. Out of a Brisbane mother's support of a Russian mother facing the same challenges for her child as she had done years previously, Project Hope was born. This project has been operating informally for five years and provides clinical cooperation between the Mater Hospitals and the Russian health agencies to improve the care of Russian children with a disability. Focusing on neurological and neuromuscular disorders in children and adolescents, the aim of this project is to not only help very needy children in Russia but also to improve the Russian health system in its management of people with a disability.

With the support, both financially and emotionally, of the Brisbane Russian community, the Russian Orthodox Church and the Sisters of Mercy, four Russian children have been sponsored to receive care and treatment at the Mater Children's Hospital. Four other children have been sponsored privately to receive care. On Wednesday, 22 April, this project was formalised.

Time expired.

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