



Speech by

# PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

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Hansard 10 November 1999

## SUNSHINE COAST INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICE

**Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—IND) (11.23 p.m.): I rise to congratulate the people involved with the Sunshine Coast Independent Living Service on their very successful open day held in Nambour today. Many people with disabilities are now able to live independently in our community and enjoy activities that they could only previously dream about thanks to the enormous efforts made by many people associated with the Sunshine Coast Independent Living Service. I recognise the contribution made by the association's President, Peter Watson, the Manager, Liz Arthur, and all of the volunteers and helpers involved with the association.

This year the clients of the Sunshine Coast Independent Living Service have undertaken a wide variety of activities. They have learnt how to eat healthy food, have had lessons in arts and crafts and put on their own art show, which was a great sell-out success, with some drawings by Matthew Burr now on display in Germany. I congratulate Matthew. They have had swimming lessons, and two of the Sunshine Coast Independent Living Service's star swimmers are heading off to competitions down south. Who knows, one day they may compete in the Special Olympics. I wish Ellen Nissen and Nicki Thompson all the best in their swimming competitions.

Other clients, including our brilliant poet Glen Sheppard, attend Nambour TAFE. The list goes on and it is all good news. On the social front, clients have attended a large number of functions. They have gone on outings and trips, including an exciting one to Vanuatu. Money is always needed. Importantly, money was raised recently when some Sunshine Coast Independent Living Service clients and volunteers delivered thousands of new phone books to residents in the region. As a result of assistance from the association, there has been a dramatic improvement in the quality of life for the association's 126 clients. This is excellent news for the families—the mums and dads—who never thought the day would come when their children would be able to live independent lives. The importance of the service provided by the association to the clients was clearly illustrated today when, in a very moving and emotionally charged speech, one of the fathers said that the Sunshine Coast Independent Living Service has brought immeasurable happiness and fulfilment to his son. I offer my heartfelt thanks to the workers and volunteers associated with the Sunshine Coast Independent Living Service for their great service to our community. I wish them and their clients all the very best for the Christmas holiday break and for the coming year. Congratulations!

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