



Speech by

WARREN PITT

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Hansard 23 March 1999

RED CROSS

Mr PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (10.26 a.m.): Today I salute the work done by volunteer organisations in our community. This week is the annual Red Cross Calling week. Collectors will be walking the streets of our cities and towns, operating stalls in shopping centres and appealing to the public over the airwaves to donate to the Red Cross. This year the Red Cross aims to raise \$1m Statewide to continue its work for those in need, both in Australia and overseas.

The Red Cross provides more than 25 different community services across our great State of Queensland. They assist newly arrived refugees, the frail aged, people with intellectual disabilities, children in hospitals, the seriously ill and their families, people affected by disaster and people needing first aid. On the international scene, the Red Cross has as its charter the prevention and alleviation of human suffering. Currently, the organisation is working in 178 different countries. At this time, of those 54 are areas of violent military and civil conflict.

Voluntary collectors do a fantastic job. They find that people recognise the good work done by the Red Cross and are willing to dig deep into their pockets to help. Even though times are tough, most people realise that there are others in our community who are doing it harder. The work of the Red Cross and other voluntary community organisations is a vital part of our social fabric.

Last Saturday, I was able to do my bit to help the local Gordonvale branch of the Red Cross. I have no doubt that in far-north Queensland Cyclone Rona and associated flooding have heightened people's awareness of need resulting from natural disaster. It was pleasing to see volunteers from schools, the Scouts and Guides, sporting clubs, the SES and shopkeepers all lending a hand to raise funds for an organisation whose reputation of service is universally recognised.

Probably the best known work of the Red Cross is the collection of blood. The blood bank has saved the lives of millions over the years. Funds raised assist the Red Cross to continue this good work. I urge all members to give their support in their local communities when the Red Cross comes calling.
