



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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CAIRNS HYDROTHERAPY FACILITY

Mr PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (10.28 a.m.): The need for a suitable hydrotherapy facility in Cairns has been acknowledged for a number of years. All Australian capital cities and most major regional centres have long had access to hydrotherapy facilities. Although locally most debate has centred around the establishment of such a facility at the Cairns Base Hospital, there is a strong argument that this location will not best serve the needs of the broader community. In a period encompassing the final months of the Borbidge Government and the early days of the Beattie Government, a decision was reached by the hospital redevelopment committee, and endorsed at a political level, not to incorporate a hydrotherapy facility at the Cairns Base Hospital.

Some members of the community have sought to politicise the issue by apportioning blame and seeking to galvanise community opinion through the circulation of petitions. It is my view that the need for a hydrotherapy pool that is accessible to the broadest possible range of potential users is an absolute must for the city and should be approached on a bipartisan basis.

Over the last six months a group of people dedicated to achieving the construction of a hydrotherapy pool have met on a regular basis, canvassing such issues as need, clientele, site, design, funding and management. The group has been fortunate that it has developed strong links with the Darryl Yin Foo Hydrotherapy Association Incorporated, an organisation that was formed some years ago to achieve similar ends. The Darryl Yin Foo Hydrotherapy Pool Association was formed in memory of a young man who suffered from lupus, a degenerative disease, who was unable to receive pain relief through hydrotherapy due to the lack of facilities.

Some moneys are already available from previous fundraising attempts and there is general agreement that they be put towards a new facility. It is projected that further fundraising will be necessary as the total estimated cost has been tentatively set at \$150,000. With a project like this, the committee is confident that it will gain community, corporate, local and State Government support.

The preferred site for a number of well-researched reasons is at the Woree pool. A separate quality facility will be constructed to complement the existing range of excellent facilities for other water-based activities already on site. Hydrotherapy pools differ from other pool facilities. Constant water temperature of between 32 degrees and 34 degrees Celsius must be maintained. In addition, a high level of filtration is required to reduce cross infection.
