



Speech by

# GARY FENLON

## MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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Hansard 18 May 2000

### Q-RAPID

**Mr FENLON** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.20 p.m.): I rise to speak about a very worthwhile project in sport for the intellectually disabled. Q-Rapid, the Queensland Sport and Recreation Association for People with an Intellectual Disability, was awarded the National Australia Bank 1999 Community Link Award for Sport and Recreation in Queensland. Formed in 1984, Q-Rapid, which is based on Brisbane's south side, aims to assist people with an intellectual disability to develop their peer network, their ability to handle money, confidence and skill in travelling to and from a venue, communication skills, and social skills. Q-Rapid also provides recreation, leisure and sporting opportunities to suit all ability levels. It is the aim of the organisation to increase the accessibility of support and recreation services for people with intellectual disabilities.

Q-Rapid programs for sports skill development take the form of individual recreation projects, group recreation projects and special events. A camp at Coolum Beach on the Sunshine Coast provided a full program of sports skills coaching, which was developed to include activities such as basketball, lawn bowls, baseball, beach sports and an activity created by Q-Rapid called Rapid Spirt, which is aimed at improving participants' coordination. This award-winning project, appropriately titled the Coolum Games, was made possible through the efforts of volunteers, including the paid staff of Q-Rapid, who also donated their time. Following the success of the Coolum Games, Q-Rapid has resolved to expand the concept this year.

Q-Rapid employs five full-time staff and 25 part-time staff and is supported by more than 63 volunteers, who contribute more than 5,000 hours of unpaid community work each year. Q-Rapid is a magnificent example of excellence in volunteerism, which enhances the quality of life for people experiencing an intellectual disability. I congratulate the organisers, participants and everyone involved in the Coolum Games and, more particularly, everyone involved in Q-Rapid. I wish them the very best for their future and every support from the local community and me.

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