



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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FRIDAY CLUB; NURSING HOMES

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.16 a.m.): The Mount Ommaney electorate has many clubs and organisations that are focused on providing assistance to people in need in the local community. Volunteers in these groups give up their precious time to make life easier for those who are disadvantaged.

Last week I discovered another club that does great work but maintains a low profile in the local community. The Friday Club meets in the Sinnamon Village function room on Fridays between 9.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. On 2 July this year, the Friday Club had been operating for 18 years. Thanks to the work of Jennie Jones and her band of volunteers, it will survive for much longer. The many seniors who visit the club have a great time. They have the opportunity to play indoor bowls with the aid of the members of the Jindalee Bowls Club. They have a cup of tea and a friendly chat, play a game of hoy and usually have a good time.

However, one topic that was put to me as concerning the seniors the most was the way in which nursing homes are audited and the shocking revelations in the media over the past few months about some nursing homes. A lot of preparatory work is undertaken by staff and management to bring nursing homes up to the necessary standards prior to a visit by health officials. Some residents claim that on-the-spot visits should be made, as they believe that nursing homes should be operating at their optimal level normally as a matter of course.

In the past, the Minister for Aged Care has been caught short with her lack of knowledge of and control over nursing home conditions. The Federal Government ought to rethink its policing methods for nursing homes before more people suffer. Some nursing home residents are often neglected, having to live in appalling conditions in forgotten places. I call on the Howard Government to pay heed to our elderly and to ensure that they are given the utmost care and attention in their twilight years.
