



Speech by

Hon. KEN HAYWARD

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Hansard 13 April 2000

VOLUNTEERS

Hon. K. W. HAYWARD (Kallangur—ALP) (7.06 p.m.): I want to take this opportunity to recognise people who serve as volunteers in Queensland, particularly in the electorate of Kallangur, which I represent. As I go about the electorate, I never cease to be amazed at the commitment and determination that people put into voluntary tasks in the local area.

Last weekend I had the opportunity to attend the presentation of trophies at the Narangba Demons Junior Baseball Club. This is a club which, during the season, fielded nine teams. As honourable members would be aware, there is nothing like a trophy presentation to bring home to someone the level of voluntary commitment needed to run any club.

In the case of any sporting club—whether it be a netball, Rugby League or soccer club—we have coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, scorers, referees or umpires, people to staff the canteen on match days, fundraisers to ensure that the club operates viably and the club executive and management committee. These people are all volunteers and they all play a role in the successful operation of the club.

From my observation, most of the volunteers have a child involved in the particular sport, but often people are working voluntarily for a club because they have a commitment to a particular sport, club or area. Many remain involved long after their child may have moved on to some other pursuit.

Whilst I think that the strength of volunteers in clubs is strong, I want to take the opportunity to sound a note of caution when it comes to some more traditional voluntary organisations. This matter was highlighted today by the member for Caboolture when he mentioned volunteers in a different context in a different debate in this Parliament. Many of these voluntary organisations struggle because of a lack of younger people.

Time expired.
