



Speech by

**PHIL REEVES**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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Hansard 6 September 2000

**NATIONAL MEALS ON WHEELS DAY**

**Mr REEVES** (Mansfield—ALP) (10.20 a.m.): Today is National Meals on Wheels Day. I think I speak on behalf of all within this Chamber when I honour this great organisation and the thousands of volunteers who give their time freely each day to ensure that those most in need—our aged—are fed. I especially congratulate, as I am sure the Minister for Fair Trading, Judy Spence, does, the Mount Gravatt Meals on Wheels Service, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. It provides a great service to those in need in the electorates of Mansfield and Mount Gravatt. It all started with the first public meeting at St Bernard's Catholic Church at Upper Mount Gravatt. This was followed up by a second meeting on 16 April 1975 which established a committee of Mrs Gladys Peel, Mrs Hughes, Mr Keith Begbie, Mrs Marjorie Wilson and Sister Heather Rowland.

Tuesday, 1 July 1975 was chosen as the first day, with 70c being the initial charge. The late Mrs Eva Parer undertook kitchen duty at Salvin Park Hostel, which provided the meals. Mr Jack and Marjorie Wilson offered their home in Tryon Street as a depot. Over the next three years, meals were provided by Belmont Private Hospital, a Macgregor Lions Club supported project known as MACH 1, and the Mount Gravatt Nursing Home Centre, the latter continuing until August 1985. On 1 January 1979 St Peter's Uniting Church at Valmar Street in Upper Mount Gravatt became the depot. Today this location is still the depot; the only change is that now the Seventh Day Adventist Church owns the property. Holland Park Meals on Wheels commenced operation of their own kitchen and since 1985 have supplied the Mount Gravatt Meals on Wheels Service.

I pay tribute to the volunteers: Mrs Hughes, Mrs Begbie, Mrs Valerie Little, Mrs Barlow and Mary Lowe for well over 20 years' service. There are two people I want to mention in particular: Rose O'Brien and Jack Sexton, the current roster clerk. The amazing aspect of these two great individuals is that they both celebrated their 90th birthday this year. I thank Mount Gravatt Meals on Wheels on National Meals on Wheels Day. Keep up the good work. The community really appreciates the service these people perform.

Time expired.

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