



Speech by
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MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE

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GAMBLING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr SULLIVAN (ChermSIDE—ALP) (9.07 p.m.): In 1992 when the then Treasurer, Keith De Lacy, dropped the first coin into a legal poker machine in Queensland at the Kedron-Wavell Services Club, I was standing beside him. That event, as we know, changed the face of clubs and pubs across our State. While I acknowledge that there are certain concerns with aspects of gaming, particularly when people become addicted to gambling, in this very brief contribution I wish to comment on two positive aspects of gaming.

Firstly, the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund provides a positive return to the community. I congratulate former and current committee members who have, in a fair and conscientious manner, returned significant funding to local groups which could otherwise not have provided the improvements for their members.

Secondly, I would like to thank and congratulate the Kedron-Wavell Services Club, which is a magnificent example of a well-run club and which provides benefits not only for its own members but also for the surrounding community. The Kedron-Wavell Services Club has provided assistance to schools for their sporting days and through citizenship scholarships, and to church and community groups in a variety of ways. It has provided a significant contribution to the development of the ChermSIDE site by contributing to the city council library, to the expansion of the clubhouse which provides facilities for people to meet, to the sporting fields which are behind the clubhouse and to the ChermSIDE Historical Precinct which is becoming a major focal point for residents in the area. Through its subsidiary Shawsporz it is helping provide healthy recreational activity to hundreds of children and adults in a wide variety of sports. They are doing so much for the local community by providing wholesome activities in a well-run, well-supervised venue. Under chairman Paul O'Brien, Shawsporz is becoming a major force on the north side of Brisbane.

I will give one brief example. A Girl Guides group in the area had a problem with the electrical power board and did not have the money to fix it. As a result, they could not meet at their premises for their normal night-time meetings. A seniors group that did craft work in the building was also unable to meet. I approached Kedron-Wavell Services Club with a quote from a local electrician. Representatives of the club said to me, "Do you trust this sparky?" I said, "Yes, he is a good local electrician; he is involved with the local swimming club and he contributes to the community." They said, "Get him to do the job and we will pay the bill." The club did that. The Girl Guides were back in their hut, with the power on, in a safe environment. The seniors group was able to carry on with their activities all because a service club had the community at heart.

I congratulate the president, Fraser Allom, vice president Paul O'Brien, board member Jim Whalan, who is also the president of the sub-branch of the RSL, all the board members of Kedron-Wavell Services Club and Ken Mogg, the secretary-manager. Kedron-Wavell Services Club, as well as working with and supporting dozens of local groups, also assists other clubs. Some clubs have found themselves in difficulties and, instead of taking them over or benefiting from their plight, Kedron-Wavell Services Club has provided assistance to those clubs to help keep them on their feet.

Whilst I am aware of the excesses of some people who gamble, I wish to congratulate the Kedron-Wavell Services Club on what it does. I also congratulate the Minister on his approach in making sure that the community benefits through the Community Benefit Fund.
