



Speech by

## CHRISTINE SCOTT

### MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS

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Hansard 11 December 2001

#### CHARTERS TOWERS MEALS ON WHEELS

**Mrs CHRISTINE SCOTT** (Charters Towers—ALP) (10.20 a.m.): In this, the International Year of the Volunteer, it is vitally important for us to look at some of the organisations which have made such huge gifts of time and effort to their communities. One such organisation is Charters Towers Meals on Wheels Inc. and it is this group I wish to speak about in parliament today.

Charters Towers Meals on Wheels operates from a well-appointed kitchen in the grounds of the Dalrymple shire in Charters Towers and has been providing a quality service to our community for many years. We can never give them enough credit for that. Our Meals on Wheels caters for anyone requiring meals where formerly a medical certificate was necessary. This has opened it up to a wider range of users whose reasons may be either medical or social. Meals on Wheels is not a charity; people pay for their meals. New clients vital to the survival of this wonderful organisation are encouraged to make contact.

Special dietary requirements are catered for. Diabetics' meals are available, as are vegetarian meals and meals prepared to comply with religious requirements. All meals are delivered directly to the client's home. The service provides good, cheap and nutritious fare. For example, a three-course meal consisting of orange juice, soup, a main course and a dessert costs just \$4.50 and is available three times a week or may be accessed seven days per week on request.

Organisations like Meals on Wheels are vitally important to the mechanism of our society, providing services we could ill afford to lose. They form part of that great army of volunteers who toil away tirelessly on behalf of the community. It is, therefore, beholden on us, as elected members of a democratic government with a social conscience, not only to honour the work of these organisations but also to support them in every way we can. I will be helping deliver meals for this organisation on Christmas Eve because it is a day on which I know the volunteers could be short-staffed and ask the parliament to join with me today in thanking Charters Towers Meals on Wheels for the fine work it has done and continues to do for our community.

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