



Speech by

CHRISTINE SMITH

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Hansard 20 June 2001

MR G. WHITE

Mrs SMITH (Burleigh—ALP) (11.22 p.m.): It is incredible how quickly the fortunes of a family can change. Late one evening a couple of months ago Greg White left his Tallebudgera Valley home to pick up his son from a school dance. On the way to the school Mr White drove past the body of a young man, lying unconscious in the middle of the road. He stopped to assist. As he dragged the young man off the road to safety, another car came by and struck Mr White. Mr White sustained 40 stitches to his head and two broken vertebrae, enough to ensure that he is now a quadriplegic. His home for the next six to eight months will be the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane.

One can only imagine the toll this horrific accident has taken on Mr White's family—his wife, Pat, and his five children. But as well as a story of great tragedy, this is a story of how a community rallies together to support those in need. The Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club education officer, Steve Curtis, offered to serve as a linchpin for fundraising activities so that Mrs White could be free to meet the emotional needs of her family at this time.

A charity golf day raised \$6,000 for the immediate financial needs of the family. One hundred and eighty golfers took to the Meadow Park Golf Course in Tallebudgera to support the Greg White Appeal. The golf day was to have finished at 2 p.m., but the wonderful turn-out by local people ensured that the event went on well into the night. Two locals, Peter and Julieanne Bennet, gave Mr White their Don Bradman plaque, signed by the great man himself. Local schools attended by the children, Tallebudgera Primary, where Mrs White was secretary of the P&C, and Elanora High, where Mr White was P&C deputy president, have held numerous fundraising activities to support the family.

Mrs White and the children are constantly on the road to Brisbane to visit their husband and father. I would like to thank the Minister for Transport, Steve Bredhauer, and Queensland Rail for their generosity in providing the family with travel warrants to enable them to travel to Brisbane as often as they wish at no cost to the family. I was able to help by purchasing a month's train travel for Mrs White whilst awaiting a decision from Queensland Rail. I would also like to congratulate the people of my electorate for their profound and touching ability to come to the aid of their neighbours. I am proud to represent such a caring community.
