



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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ZOE'S PLACE

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.33 p.m.): It is with great pleasure that I will be launching the Mount Ommaney Bike Hike on 25 August this year. This event will be held to raise funds for the construction of Zoe's Place, a hospice for children with life-threatening illnesses, in the heart of Centenary. The idea of Zoe's Place was supported by the former member for Mount Ommaney, Bob Harper, and I continue to provide whatever help I can towards the project.

Zoe's Place was inspired by Zoe Reed, who was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis and died in 1994 at the age of 11. Her dying wish was that people were made aware of the stress on families when one of their children has a life-limiting illness. Her father, Nigel Reed, literally walked the world to raise awareness, and he started a fundraising campaign to build Queensland's first respite centre for families of these children. The main aim of Zoe's Place will be to keep families together during those difficult times. It will provide support for all family members and the sick child by providing a much-needed break and medical supervision for the affected child. It is easy to see why such a service is needed when pressures can tear a close-knit family apart in such emotional circumstances.

Zoe's Place management committee president, Sister Pamela Baker, has been conducting fundraising activities for the last five years. She said that Zoe's Place needs to raise \$1 million before it can be built. The state government has allocated 1.8 hectares of land opposite the Mount Ommaney shopping centre to build the hospice. The local community has supported this project from its beginning and many volunteers have asked to be a part of Zoe's Place.

This bike hike is one of many community fundraisers in which people in my constituency have participated. The bike hike will start at the Mount Ommaney shopping centre and will weave its way through a few major streets and into the leafy suburbs for 25 kilometres. There is a smaller course for the children and those who cannot manage the longer distance. Tiny tots will be provided with a course at the shopping centre as well. It will be a day for the whole family, ending with a carnival and stalls and something for everyone. The main objective is to bring the local community together and to raise funds to support this very worthwhile project.

Zoe's Place will take pride of place in the heart of our Centenary suburbs in the not-too-distant future. Many people from the local area will work as volunteers and they look forward to being able to contribute to such a worthwhile cause. It is great to see such overwhelming support locally for this special project and to assist families with children who have a life-limiting illness.
