



Speech by

JULIE ATTWOOD

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Hansard 4 December 2001

GRAFFITI

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.26 a.m.): I rise to speak about the great achievements of the anti-graffiti group over the past 12 months in the electorate of Mount Ommaney. As the local member, the group contacted me with a plan to clean up and deter graffiti vandals in the area. Its strategy of cleaning graffiti off as soon as it appeared made a lot of sense to me. I assisted the group with start-up funding and called for interest in the local community. After a few months it was up and running. Ann and Anthony Lanza were and continue to be the mainstays behind this group. Anthony takes the group out on Sunday mornings to the affected spots and cleans up the graffiti. Ann runs the meetings and contacts the relevant authorities as needed. The group was successful in obtaining a grant from the Gaming Machine Benefit Fund and was able to purchase a heavy duty pump and trailer. Donations of paint were forthcoming through my office and 12 months later the group has the task down to a fine art. It has undertaken a number of fundraising activities to keep going and to help cover its ongoing administration and operational costs. The Centenary suburbs and the Centenary Highway are now completely graffiti free. The group now does periodic maintenance and on Sunday mornings goes out to pick up and clean up rubbish along our roads. However, in order to combat graffiti everywhere, the group feels there is a need for legislation which deals more appropriately with graffiti vandals. At its request, I recently tabled for the minister's response a petition of 865 signatures requesting some changes. However, it appears that at least one person has signed the petition more than once.

A Government member: Who could be so irresponsible?

Mrs ATTWOOD: It was Bob 'call-me-Robert' Harper, former Liberal member for Mount Ommaney. I thank them both for their bipartisan support. I call on all businesses in the area to offer their support to this hard-working anti-graffiti group.
