



Speech by

Mr P. PURCELL

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

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BLF CHARITY TOUCH FOOTBALL DAY

Mr PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (7.20 p.m.): I am pleased to inform the House that on Sunday, 20 May this year the BLF—my old union—held the first construction workers touch football charity day in Brisbane. And a great day was had by all. Firstly, I thank the Deputy Premier, Terry Mackenroth; the Minister for Industrial Relations, Gordon Nuttall; the Minister for Emergency Services, Mike Reynolds; the federal shadow minister for Industrial Relations, Arch Bevis; and the member for Ipswich West, Don Livingstone, for their support and attendance.

Over 50 teams entered the touch football competition, which was won by the Wadsworth Constructions team, which beat the team of Tarong construction workers employed by Barclay Mowlem. What a great effort it was for the Tarong boys to come down all that way and get through to the final. I congratulate Wadsworth Constructions on winning.

Approximately 3,000 people attended the day. Each and every one had a fantastic time. Some 15,000 toys were given to children and over 2,000 ice-creams were handed out to all and sundry. We were flat out eating the ice-creams; it was a bit of a cold day so the ice-creams were not in huge demand. But I can assure members they were all eaten by the end of the day.

I had the pleasure of refereeing the team tug of war, which was won by the WACO Scaffolds team, anchored by Tia. Anybody in the construction industry who knows Tia would realise that he would have made the difference as the anchor of that team; our Tia is a big boy.

The day was focused on family fun, but the underlying purpose was to raise \$45,000 to purchase a mini ambulance complete with defibrillator for the Queensland Ambulance Service. I am pleased to announce that this target was met. My esteemed colleague the Deputy Premier had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for \$45,000 to a representative of the Ambulance Service.

Thanks to the BLF and the construction industry, the ambulance has become a reality. The mini ambulance is used in crowd situations where it is impossible to get regular ambulances through. The new mini ambulance will be used at major sporting events, music concerts, Anzac Day parades and even the Brisbane Exhibition in August.

Another \$5,000 raised on day was donated to Guide Dogs for the Blind, in which the BLF has had an ongoing sponsorship for years going back to my day. Credit for this day and the success in raising the money must go to Greg Simcoe, BLF State Secretary; Terry MacIntyre, Assistant State Secretary; Dave Hanna, who was the MC on the day and the coordinator of the event; and most especially to all of the Builders Labourers Federation members who supported the day.

One of the events on the day was a chunder run, which was won by an old mate of mine, Mick Rookwood, known as Rookie. Entrants have to drink a hot can of beer, run 20 metres, eat a cold pie, run another 20 metres, drink a hot litre of milk, run another 20 metres, eat two raw eggs, run another 20 metres, do six push-ups and then run back 100 metres. Rookie did it in style.

Time expired.
