



Speech by

CHRISTINE SCOTT

MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS

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PHOENIX COURT

Mrs CHRISTINE SCOTT (Charters Towers—ALP) (8.52 p.m.): Tonight I rise to talk about a special group of people who have made a real difference to the community in which I live. There are those amongst us who think only of themselves or believe that if there is a problem or a need someone else will fix it. Those are not the type of people I want to speak about. The people I want to talk about tonight had the generosity of spirit and the wisdom and foresight to make a contribution to their community as well as the commitment and tenacity to see their plans realised.

This year saw the construction of five two-bedroom units in Charters Towers. This complex, called Phoenix Court, is to house people with special needs in an area less than one minute's walk from the main street. The Charters Towers Neighbourhood Centre, which was established to access funding for community housing, wanted to build a complex to house seniors and people with special needs close to the main shopping area and submitted an application to Housing Queensland. The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos had owned the land on which the complex was built for over 100 years and in an extraordinarily generous gesture donated the land to the Charters Towers Neighbourhood Centre for the project. The Buffalos could well have used the proceeds from the sale of this land for themselves, because their hall is sorely in need of repairs. That is what makes this gesture even more to their credit, because they could have sold that land for around about \$60,000.

In 1999 as a member of the Premier's Council for Women I advocated on behalf of the community to have these units built on that land. The Buffalos generously donated the land when the Minister for Housing, the Hon. Robert Swarten, announced the funding application was successful. The state government through Mr Swarten's department provided funding of more than \$60,000 to build the units. This is a wonderful example of how people can, by working together, achieve great things for the community they live in. I cannot speak highly enough about the community spirit displayed by the Buffalos and the wonderful gesture of generosity on their part which enabled this project to take shape and form.

Similarly, the work and dedication of those involved in the Charters Towers Neighbourhood Centre is admirable and deserves the thanks of a grateful community. There is a continuing demand for funds for community based housing, and this reflects the strong demand and need for affordable housing. We must continue to facilitate the provision of affordable housing in our communities. Phoenix Court is an exemplar of what communities can achieve, and I would like the House to join me in thanking the Buffalos—more specifically, the Buffalos of Phoenix 24—for donating the land. Ted Schunemann and his lodge brothers have proven once again that the community of Charters Towers has a heart and cares about what happens to the most vulnerable people in our society. On behalf of the community of Charters Towers, I thank each and every person who helped get this project up and running. I call on members of this House to join me in thanking these special people for a job well done.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Time expired.