



Speech by

**DESLEY SCOTT**

**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Hansard 24 October 2002

### **LOGAN WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRE**

**Mrs DESLEY SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (5.55 p.m.): There is a haven of peace and tranquillity right in the heart of my electorate which has been responsible for healing hurts, for support and counselling, for the promotion of a healthy lifestyle, equity, acceptance and inclusiveness, and for encouraging our community to truly reach out to others. This is a brief profile of our Logan Women's Health Centre, which celebrated its 10th anniversary of operation on Wednesday, 16 October. And what a celebration it turned out to be! Our women packed the centre—a few men as well—to enjoy a great evening with MC Maree Foelz, one of our valued police officers from Logan. From the Polynesian dancers, original poetry and songs by the Older Women's Network, Bellydance Logan, some reminiscing to a hypothetical moderated by Karen Struthers MP, it was all good fun, great food and lots of laughter.

On entering this wonderful centre one immediately feels that this is a place of caring. The light is soft, the colours warm and inviting and the decor welcoming. Above all, the faces are friendly. Here one will find manager Linda Pullen, counsellors Christine Toussaint, Angela Piluris and Fiona Sharwood, health information coordinator Ivana Matkovic, finance officer and administrator Daniela Green, admin assistant and receptionist Rachel Briscoe, and reception officer Rose Clyne. A number of social work and TAFE students come regularly to the centre to gain rich experience. The Management Committee of 2001-02 chaired by Colleen Crisp has shared in the partnership of providing a quality service for the women of Logan City and beyond. As in most of our organisations in Logan, the centre has many volunteers and friends who all contribute a great deal to what is a very dynamic and innovative program.

This is a centre where values such as social justice and respect are held high and where holistic services are available to acknowledge the physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and cultural needs of all women. Confidentiality is assured and women are empowered in their decision making. Its services include counselling on emotional and mental health issues; health promotion and workshops; therapeutic group programs; cross-cultural women's health programs; information on women's health topics including displays, newsletters, workshops and guest presentations; community education; development; advocacy and data collection; clinical services including female doctor, women's sexual health clinic and antenatal clinic; natural therapies referral service; cancer support services; a venue where self-help groups can meet such as our Older Women's Network; and a venue for outreach services. Its program encompasses every aspect of life and it strives to assist its clients to attain a healthier, happier lifestyle.

A new project has now been launched to develop a community garden, and I look forward to watching that unfold. Many women have contributed to the success of this centre over the years such as Ann Langley, a foundation member, and Cathy Miller, manager for a number of years. They really made a difference. Susan Masotti's legal advice has been invaluable and Kathy Rynders, who is now the Deputy Commissioner of Police, served as vice-president for a number of years.

Time expired.