



Speech by

**CAROLYN MALE**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**CALOUNDRA HINTERLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

**Ms MALE** (Glass House—ALP) (11.58 p.m.): I rise to speak about the caring community workers, both paid and voluntary, who are working in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Originally these people worked in their own communities, be it Maleny, Landsborough or another hinterland town. As we all know, social issues and problems do not have such structured boundaries.

Back in 1997 the neighbourhood centres of Maleny, Landsborough and Glasshouse, along with the Beerwah and District Youth Activities Centre, or BADYAC as we all lovingly call it, decided that the best way of getting much-needed services to the area was to work collaboratively. They encouraged the Caloundra City Council and the Department of Families to join with them to form a subregional body which could work together to provide a united, cohesive advocacy service. The Caloundra Hinterland Community Development Association was formed.

I first met CHCDA members in 1999 as the new Labor candidate for Glass House. Having been involved with government and community groups for many years, I was amazed to see a collective working together instead of competition.

After a community cabinet meeting with the then Minister for Families, Anna Bligh, the state government recognised the many benefits to both the community and the government of this type of collaborative approach to sharing resources. In 2001 the minister gave triennial funding for Glasshouse, Landsborough and Maleny neighbourhood centres. The CHCDA have many service delivery success stories, such as the Hinterland families liaison workers program, combined centres volunteer training and agreements with many coast service providers for outreach work.

This group has been meeting for seven years, and I am proud to announce that on Saturday, 15 March, I chaired their inaugural meeting as the newly incorporated Hinterland of Caloundra Community Development Association. They are working together to build communities in Beerburum, Beerwah, Conondale, Glasshouse Mountains, Landsborough, Maleny, Mooloolah and Peachester. Their mission is to have people working together to build strong, sustainable communities that will enhance people's ownership and sense of belonging.

Their aims are to form partnerships to build and strengthen the Hinterland community, provide information and networking, encourage participation of people in community decision making around planning and addressing needs, and to support Hinterland communities to identify and recognise needs and to develop appropriate sustainable responses. The incoming executive team is made up of Bea Rogan, president; Ken Husband, vice president; Howard Buckley, secretary; Greg Kesby, treasurer; and committee members Tina Lathouras, Roger Westcott and Anna Grosskreutz.

As I look through the objects of the new group, it is obvious that cooperation amongst community groups and all levels of government will be the key to the success of this group. There are plans already to map the service need in the area, and I know that the HCCDA is keen to get as many local community organisations on board as it possibly can.

I am sure that, with the commitment, energy and drive that has always been displayed by the many individuals involved in this area, the Hinterland of Caloundra Community Development Association will go from strength to strength and make a real difference to the lives of Glasshouse residents.