



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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FAMILY WEEK TOOWOOMBA

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (5.45 pm): Tonight I want to speak about a very special event that will be held in Toowoomba for the first time this year called Family Week Toowoomba. Toowoomba is very well known for the many festivals and events that happen throughout the city during the year, such as the Carnival of Flowers, the Toowoomba Royal Show, the Weetwood Carnival, the Hobby and Craft Festival that is run by Rotary, the big Downlands Grammar Football Day, the annual Toowoomba Eisteddfod, the Agshow, Farmfest, McGregor Summer School, many sporting carnivals, many horse shows and, in recent years, the Australian Gospel Music Festival.

Now an organisation has come together in Toowoomba called Toowoomba Supports Families. It is putting on a wonderful event that has such great potential called Family Week. It will be held on 21 to 29 October, and anyone who would like to come to Toowoomba during that week and participate is most welcome. Because it is the first time the event is being held, it is important to publicise it.

Toowoomba is well known for being a lovely place not only to live but to raise families. There are a great array of schools, both state and private. There are 15 secondary schools, eight of which are boarding schools; magnificent sporting facilities; wonderful cultural facilities, particularly Empire Theatre, which is one of the most beautiful and practical theatres in Australia; the University of Southern Queensland; our TAFE facilities; and so forth. The city has many organisations like the scouts, guides and junior and senior sporting clubs that support families by providing opportunities for children to participate in sport.

This will be a great week. The event will be run by Australian Gospel Music Festival Events. That organisation runs not only the Australian Gospel Music Festival, which is a huge event and takes a lot of organising, but also the Flower, Food and Wine Festival during the Carnival of Flowers; the famous Leyburn sprints, where so many motor enthusiasts congregate and take part; and carols by candlelight on behalf of the city and the radio station at Christmas time.

The important thing is that this event is about families. Families are the basis of our communities. The organisers are looking forward to people having family reunions and holding family sporting events. There will be 'kids eat free' specials at cafes and restaurants. They will be recognising the achievements of local families and asking local youth organisations to hold a father and son camp or some such event. They are looking for all groups in the town to participate. Everybody is welcome, and I certainly congratulate the organisers. It is worth remembering the dates—21 to 29 October—for the very first Family Week in Toowoomba.