



Speech by

Phil Reeves

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard Wednesday, 15 February 2006

FITZGIBBON, MS C

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (9.28 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise in this adjournment debate. Often all we hear from members on the other side of the House are horror stories. I would like to talk about a very special story from my electorate of Mansfield. Some two weeks ago Cathy Fitzgibbon, a constituent of mine who lives in Rochedale and who is a diabetic, had a turn while she was in her swimming pool. Her two daughters, Emily, who is in grade 4, and Madeleine, who is in grade 2, virtually saved her life. However, they would not have been able to save her life without the great Queensland Ambulance Service communications centre.

Emily lifted her mother's head above the water while Madeleine, who is in grade 2, rang the communications centre and started speaking about the issues. While they were doing that, unfortunately Madeleine became more upset. So she had to take the phone to Emily, who was still holding onto her mother. At one stage, she had to tell Madeleine to go further away so that the communications centre could really get a description of where they were.

For some 10 minutes or so the communications centre spoke to Emily, talking her through the problem. At one stage they asked if she could get her mother out of the water but she said that, no, she was too heavy. However, they were able to save their mother's life. The ambulance came through in that time and the communications centre kept going until the ambulance arrived to help Cathy. It ended up being a great story, with Cathy fit and well. I have been lucky enough to be at St Peters, Rochedale, a great Catholic primary school in my electorate. They often talk to kids about the important issues of pool safety, CPR and those sorts of things. Those talks to their students came good.

The experience was further upsetting for the Fitzgibbons because Brian, the girls' father and Cathy's husband, was overseas at the time. Thankfully, Brian is back home, very proud of his daughters and happy that his lovely wife is still alive. I congratulate Brian. For those who do not know him, Brian is very well known in Brisbane circles as the proprietor of Fitzgibbon Hotels, particularly the Glen Hotel. He is a great bloke and the Fitzgibbons are a great family. I take this opportunity to congratulate them. Last year the Glen Hotel was named hotel of the year by the Queensland Hotels Association.

This is a great story about two young children who are heroes in our local area. Also heroes are those at the communications centre and the Queensland Ambulance Service. I congratulate the minister and the department on their great work.