



Speech by

Terry Rogers

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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QUEENSLAND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Mr ROGERS (Redcliffe—Lib) (8.59 pm): Last Saturday night at Kippa-Ring I attended an Aboriginal art charity auction to support the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Football Federation and their team, called the Crocodiles. The federation aims to assist Indigenous and remote area soccer players in their quest to fulfil their dreams and ambitions of becoming successful soccer players.

The auction was a delightful evening with about 50 turning out at the Redcliffe Seaside Artists Gallery. On that note I would like to mention Doug and Ros Kennedy, who own the gallery, which is run as a beneficial community project. The gallery has hosted a variety of charitable events, from black-tie balls to fashion parades and bush dancing. Doug and Ros manage to support all kinds of community organisations, and I commend their efforts.

On Saturday night Aboriginal artists from all over Queensland turned out to show their talents and donate their artwork to assist the soccer federation's fundraising efforts. Artists have done a remarkable job with their works. There were paintings, didgeridoos, painted chairs, plates, T-shirts and delicious homemade food featured on the night.

The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Football Federation aims to lay the foundations for players to improve their opportunities in soccer whilst giving young Australians fundamental experience for their future. The art auction aimed to raise money for a trip to Denmark. Members of the federation and players are hoping to raise money to send 25 players and several support staff to Denmark in July this year. A documentary is also expected to be filmed during the trip.

I would like to commend the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Football Federation and wish them the best of luck for the future. I would like to thank the artists who donated their works and in particular Michael Connolly, a well-known local artist and performer, who promoted the event and acted as the auctioneer on the night.

I know that if the players want to get to Denmark they are not going to get there by train from Redcliffe. Why? Because we do not have one yet. So I say to the government: do not forget our rail to Redcliffe, and if you have the chance to support the Crocodiles please do so as it is a worthwhile cause.