



Speech by

Barbara Stone

MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

Hansard Thursday, 23 August 2007

COMMUNITY SERVICES BILL

Ms STONE (Springwood—ALP) (3.38 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak in support of the Community Services Bill and acknowledge the great work that non-government community organisations are performing in a wide variety of areas and communities all over our state. There is no doubt that non-government community agencies are integral to the delivery of quality services to many in our state. Their services give people a quality of life that can often bring with it happiness and comfort.

No government could ever perform all the duties that non-government organisations provide. No government can do this alone. It is so important that the partnership between the non-government sector and government be strengthened. The bill has an objective and set of principles to clarify how the department and community organisations can work together to provide quality services for Queenslanders. The bill provides a clear process for determining organisations that are eligible for assistance from the department and will weed out those that are not performing. The bill will provide the structure and guidelines for the department and organisations to work together to ensure high-quality, safe and accountable services.

In my electorate there are a range of non-government organisations that are doing a fantastic job. One of those is Bravehearts, a well-known and well-established organisation. I am very pleased indeed that the Queensland government supports it financially and in other ways. It is aimed at preventing the kind of sexual abuse that has occurred in generations past and unfortunately is still occurring in our society. Since 2004 Bravehearts has been receiving government funding through the Department of Communities. This funding assists it to provide advocacy support and therapeutic counselling services to children, young people and adults who have experienced sexual assault from their families and carers. Since 2006 the Department of Child Safety, in conjunction with the Department of Communities, has been contributing funding to Bravehearts to provide counselling services to children who have suffered sexual assault. Bravehearts also facilitates raising awareness and community education for a range of prevention and early intervention strategies.

I was pleased that the Minister for Child Safety was able to join me at Springwood Road State School to see Bravehearts at work performing its personal safety education program *Ditto's keep safe adventure* which uses the Ditto the Dog character to teach children from prep to year three about their bodies to help prevent child abuse. It was a terrific performance and the songs certainly kept the children interested. They had the serious message of inappropriate touching put across to them. I am pleased to say that the government is assisting Bravehearts. I am also pleased to report that in June this year Bravehearts received \$30,000 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for the purchase of a vehicle. That vehicle will be used to take that educational program around to schools and other community forums. That certainly is good news. Bravehearts provide a very important service in our community and I thank them for their hard work.

Just like Bravehearts, there are a number of organisations in the electorate that receive state government funding. I want to talk about child-care services, in particular before and after school care. I acknowledge Brisbane YMCA Youth Services for their hard work with the Rochedale Outside School

Hours Care program. We also have Calvary Christian College, Chatswood Hills State School P&C Association, Logan City PCYC who look after Kimberley Park After School Care, Springwood Central After School Care, Shailer Park After School Care, Slacks Creek State School P&C, Springwood Road State School P&C, St Edward's Outside School Hours Care and St Matthew's After School Care. All of them do a wonderful job with the young people in our community and I thank them for their hard work and acknowledge that today in this House.

While the majority of pokie players are people who enjoy a night out at the pub or club and like to have a bit of a go on the pokies, it is important that we also remember the other side of gambling and that is those people who are in need of help in dealing with a gambling addiction. I am pleased to say that Relationships Australia receives valuable funding to provide community development and support on gambling issues in Logan.

The minister is in the House and I know that he would expect me to stand up and say that I want to acknowledge the dedication and service provided by the Logan East Community Neighbourhood Centre. I see him nodding his head. The minister has visited the centre and knows the dedication and passion of the volunteers and staff at that centre. Once again today I remind the minister that they are in need of more support. They are in need of more accommodation. I know that if we can give them some more support along the way, this drive and passion that they have to serve my community will not be lost. I reiterate that today in the House.

I also acknowledge the groups that have put on some wonderful seniors events in our community this week. I am very happy to announce the inaugural Barbara Stone Club Rochedale Seniors Trivia Challenge. We are having that tomorrow morning at 10 am. It is a wonderful challenge. There are some wonderful prizes. I am sure they will all beat me at the trivia questions. I am prepared to be beaten. We will have a great time. We will have a cuppa, some bikkies and a chat and enjoy Club Rochedale.

A government member: Where is it?

Ms STONE: Club Rochedale, Underwood Road, Rochedale South. Please come along at 10 am tomorrow. I commend the bill to the House.