



Speech by  
**Gary Fenlon**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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### **ZIG ZAG FOUNDATION**

**Mr FENLON** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.55 pm): I rise to address the House on a newly established charity in Brisbane, the Zig Zag Foundation. Zig Zag is the brainchild of Michelle Lawson. In 1996 Ms Lawson started raising funds for various charities, including the Queensland Cancer Fund, Challenge, which is a cancer support network, and Starlight, which is childhood cancer support, through various balls and events. After 10 years of running some of Australia's largest charity events, Ms Lawson felt the money that she raised could be allocated across a wider range of charities that support many smaller organisations and volunteers whose work is vital for our youth. From this idea sprang the Zig Zag Foundation.

Zig Zag was officially registered in February 2007 and launched in May 2007. The absolute and dual focus of this new and promising foundation is to raise money to help sick and underprivileged children or at-risk children between the ages of zero and 18 years. Zig Zag provides funds to charities that provide assistance to seriously ill children and their families. It also grants wishes and creates fun environments for seriously ill children. It provides assistance with the development of underprivileged and at-risk children. It also provides assistance to abused and/or homeless children.

The interesting and innovative side of the Zig Zag Foundation is its provision of funding rounds for charities or organisations for specific purposes and/or special projects. Examples of recipients of these funding rounds are, but not confined to, the purchase of wheelchairs or medical equipment; specific medical requirements or operations for specific children; programs such as camps, parenting, communication and life skills; housing for homeless youth; therapy options and research. These funding rounds are offered twice a year and are open to any registered charity or not-for-profit organisation that works with children between the ages of zero and 18 years.

And promising these funding rounds are. With Zig Zag's first year not even halfway through, the foundation has managed to raise over \$400,000, primarily through its first function, the 2007 Brisbane BMW Zig Zag Charity Ball, which was held in June this year and which I was very pleased to attend with the Labor lord mayoral candidate. With a goal to raise \$1 million a year, the Zig Zag Foundation has already organised its next events. The public will hear all about those. I am sure that the patron, Mr Greg Sowden, will be out there promoting these very ably in the coming months. Those events are the Zig Zag Race Day on 6 October and the foundation's next ball, which will be held on 24 May next year at the Brisbane Convention Centre. I urge all members to attend those events. The funds raised for these various events are well spent. All of Zig Zag's running and office costs are offset from companies and individuals who support this fantastic charity. I wish the foundation well in its endeavours.