



Speech by
Ian Rickuss

MEMBER FOR LOCKYER

Hansard Thursday, 8 February 2007

JACKWITZ, MR C

Mr RICKUSS (Lockyer—NPA) (5.18 pm): I rise to talk about a sad occasion. I had to go to a funeral today of a young fellow in my area. It was quite traumatic. Chris Jackwitz was born on 28 November 1974 at Gatton. I rise to express my deep sadness at the loss of Chris Jackwitz. Chris was one of those sorts of people who other people enjoyed being around. His positive attitude and his zest for life were infectious to his friends and family.

He is only a few years older than my own sons, so I can understand the loss that his mother and father, Hazel and Keith, and Chris's large family are feeling at the moment. As a parent one does not want to be present at one's own child's funeral. As I said to Keith, it just makes me and a lot of others sad.

To Desley, his wife and childhood sweetheart from Gatton High School, and their two children, Elijah Wilhelm seven years old and Caitlyn Mai four years, I express my deepest sympathy on behalf of my wife, Ann, and me. Desley, my wife, Ann, is also my childhood sweetheart so I have a bit of an understanding of yours and Chris's relationship. Unfortunately for Desley it is going to be tough, but I am sure with the help of her family, friends and especially her children she will be able to overcome this tragedy.

You have two wonderful children who will be Chris's living legacy on earth. I am not trying to put pressure on Elijah or Caitlyn in any way—they will grow up to be individuals—but I am sure that a bit of Chris will always come through their personality and character. Chris's ability to be positive and progress with his business and his community life was a great asset to the local area. Chris was a man who was willing to have a go and take things head-on to try to find a solution. I can understand Chris's frustration at times at the snail pace of government on issues such as recycled water and other issues related to farmers and the drought. Chris is a great loss to Desley, his family and the Lockyer. As an old family friend, Col Schulz, said to me on the way out of the funeral, 'There's a lot more mongrels around who could have died before Chris.' A lot of people in the Lockyer will be sad today and for some time to come as they think of Chris, but please remember his grin and his positive attitude and his appreciation of life.