



Speech by

## Mrs Julie Attwood

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2007

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### SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

**Mrs ATTWOOD** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.09 pm): Recently I had the pleasure of officially opening a refurbished pottery studio at the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre. The pottery centre is a central hub where a number of groups from all over Brisbane including the Mudlarks, the Western Suburbs Clay Workers and the Botanicals meet on a regular basis to use their creative energy. The studio is used for classes through Brisbane City Council's recreation programs called GOLD and GOLD 'n' Kids and outside agencies are able to hire the kiln for firing. A successful submission to the Gaming Community Benefit Fund allowed the centre to purchase a kiln, wheels and to refurbish the studio. The kilns are now kept separately in a stand-alone storage area whilst the potters are able to work in a separate shed just across the way in a much cleaner, cooler and safer environment. I want to take this opportunity to praise all of the volunteers who ensure that the pottery studio will continue to be well patronised into the future. Among them are Will McChesney-Clark, Lyn McGlade, Jane Vidgen, Gai McDonald and Jesu Garcia.

**Mr Reeves** interjected.

**Mrs ATTWOOD:** I know every one of them. I am very proud of what the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre is able to achieve for a variety of community members and groups. There is always something going on there which appeals to a range of needs and age groups. On average, over 2,600 people access the centre each month. The centre's halls are hired out almost continuously by groups and individuals. Meetings and events are organised in style by coordinator Margaret Smith and her talented team of volunteers and workers on placement. We all look forward to the annual Melbourne Cup day at the centre which continues to attract a lot of interest from members of the local community and businesses at Sherwood.

**Mr Lee:** I'm looking forward to the Sherwood Festival.

**Mrs ATTWOOD:** So am I. It is becoming a huge event with raffles galore, champagne, local entertainment and some type of interesting fashion parade or competition. Everyone has a lot of fun at the annual Melbourne Cup day function. Other activities include network events raising community awareness such as National Seniors Week, Adult Learner Week, community education et cetera. Community support services including seniors networking, playgroups, parent support, emergency relief and housing are just some of myriad programs run by the centre.

As the centre is seen as the local hub and information centre, it is an appropriate place for the south-west interagency meetings to take place. On the centre's mailing list there are 75 agencies and local, state and federal politicians including me and the member for Indooroopilly, Ronan Lee. It is a great opportunity for networking among non-government and government organisations where ideas and updated information on resources can be exchanged. They have been organising these meetings since long before I became the member in this area, as I remember attending a number of meetings on behalf of the Indooroopilly Commonwealth Employment Service around 11 years ago. The Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre makes a great deal of difference to the lives of many, providing much-needed compassion, friendship, activities and support to people from all walks of life.