



Speech by

Paul Hoolihan

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Mr HOOLIHAN (Keppel—ALP) (10.09 pm): We are often asked to wear a ribbon of a different colour to signify different types of awareness. Most people in this House would know that I wear the pink ribbon in relation to breast cancer awareness all of the time as my wife has suffered from that disease, as have the wives of some other members. The member for Aspley is a survivor. October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month and I want to bring to the attention of this House the amount of funding required to attack this insidious disease. The statistics used to be that one woman in 11 in Australia would be touched by breast cancer, but that has now been reassessed at one in eight women. The amount of money that is necessary to undertake investigations and research is rapidly increasing.

The central division of the Queensland Cancer Council held a pink luncheon in Rockhampton on 21 October which was very successful. On 11 November the Yeppoon Lioness Club had a pink afternoon tea, and that was also successful. But the amount of money that is raised is in fact only a pittance in relation to the amount that is needed. It is very satisfying to note that Qantas has one of its Q400 planes painted pink and that Deep Spring also has pink caps on some of its water bottles and is contributing funds from every bottle sold to support breast cancer. It is an insidious disease. It affects most women in our society in one way or another and it really has an impact on family, a matter about which I am only too painfully aware. If somebody says, 'We really need your support,' I would encourage everyone in this House to put their hands in their pockets and dig deep.

Whilst talking about breast cancer and the new statistics that have only recently been released, it is instructive to know that 2,900—and that is 2,900 too many—women in Australia today die from breast cancer. Sadly, that is also roughly the same number of men who die from prostate cancer, another insidious disease. Anyone who has a bit of money could probably give Vaughan Johnson a contribution to buy a razor blade because that growth on his top lip is not because he forgot to shave but is currently part of the Movember fundraising for prostate cancer. At the end of the month he is going to probably need a pretty big razor blade to shave it off.