



Speech by

## Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 15 March 2007

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### ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

**Mr HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (5.41 pm): I also rise to commend the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and pass on my congratulations and thanks to the minister for the great work that she has done on bringing this bill before the House and the extensive consultation that was apparent from the material surrounding the bill. I want to briefly put on record my experience as the founding president of the Chermide and Districts Historical Society and being involved in the incorporation of a community association and the development of an appropriate and functioning constitution that continues to assist that organisation in doing the very good work that it does on the north side covering the local history for the former Kedron shire across the northern suburbs of Brisbane but based upon the Chermide Regional Centre.

My electorate is also home to a large number of statewide incorporated associations, many of which provide services and assistance to people across the whole of the state but have their homes in my electorate primarily because of lower rents in commercial areas in the northern suburbs. In that context, I note the provisions within the bill in terms of providing for teleconferences to be valid meetings of organisations that are incorporated under the auspices of the bill. All of these groups are particularly important, regardless if they are a purely local group focusing on important things to a local community such as its own history or indeed statewide organisations which provide services to people such as the victims of crime.

All of these community organisations are very important and play a vital role in servicing our society in so many ways. I particularly note the comments made by my colleague the member for Algester, who has her own personal experience involved in working with community organisations which provide outstanding services to the whole community but particularly those where the state provides significant amounts of taxpayers' money to those organisations to provide important community functions. I have become acutely aware of these functions in my role as the parliamentary secretary to the minister for communities. I commend those organisations in general and thank the minister again for the work that she has done to ensure that the associations incorporation legislation provides a more meaningful and appropriate range of options for those organisations to operate under.

During the debate we have heard of the huge variety of community organisations and community activities that are being undertaken across the length and breadth of the state of Queensland.

**Mr Mickel:** Up and down it!

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Up and down the length and breadth of the state of Queensland. I want to note and commend to my colleagues the research and writings of Robert Putnam, including his sometimes controversial book *Bowling Alone*.

**Ms Nolan:** A wonderful book.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Absolutely. On one occasion I had the opportunity in a previous role to meet with and work with Robert Putnam when he was last in Brisbane. His contribution to community debate around the importance of community associations in the development of social capital for our community is something that I would commend to all honourable members—that is, that they should read and understand these amendments to the legislation in relation to associations incorporation in the context of the work that that will do to help build social capital for Queenslanders.