



Speech by

Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 23 August 2007

SENIORS WEEK

Mr HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (5.06 pm): Seniors Week is a terrific annual opportunity to promote a positive image of older Queenslanders and, most importantly, encourage active ageing. Last Saturday, I enjoyed representing the minister for seniors, the Hon. Warren Pitt, at the grand final of Seniors Superstar—an event dedicated to showcasing the talent and creativity of senior performers from across Brisbane. This event occurred in a packed main auditorium of City Hall. All finalists were wonderful performers, but the judges singled out St Lucia's Peter Vance for first place, Cleveland's Olive Webber for second and, from my own suburb of West Chermside, Wing Chong Chung for third, who is a fantastic tenor.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: And funded by the Department of Communities. Olive Webber will turn 100 on 29 August and I think many people can take inspiration from her positive attitude to ageing. Olive's powerful voice won acclaim on Saturday, but the revelation that she only started singing lessons at age 89 was a lesson about active ageing for all of us.

In my own electorate on Wednesday morning, I celebrated Seniors Week at Chermside's Burnie Brae Senior Citizens Centre where active ageing is a popular choice with a range of regular physical and mental activities enjoyed by the membership of over 1,500. But these activities and the running of this vital community service do not happen without a large band of outstanding volunteers. In a special recognition of these volunteers during Seniors Week, Burnie Brae presented WOW Awards to acknowledge extraordinary volunteers. With my local colleague Councillor Faith Hopkins, I was humbled to be asked to present awards to Thelma Aitken, Brenda Dimmock, Betty Elliott, Bill Galvin, Lester Knight, Ernie Ladlay, Betty Ruffles and Ray Yarrow. In a variety of ways, these people have contributed countless hours to the success of their community. I know I join with Burnie Brae president, Al Fielding, and the whole of the Chermside community in thanking these outstanding volunteers and the many more they represent.

In conclusion, I wish to mention the opportunity I had to join with other volunteers in supporting the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation in that great Ekka tradition of selling strawberry ice-creams on the first Saturday night of the exhibition. I did so alongside that dedicated volunteer Gladys Logan.