



Speech by

Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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INALA ELECTORATE, BABY WELCOMING EVENT

Ms PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (6.56 pm): Last month, the Premier announced a bold vision for Queensland's future, Q2. One of the main aims of this vision for the future concentrates on the area of health. We want to make Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people. I want to refer to some examples outlined in this brochure, which states that the future wellbeing and wealth of Queensland relies on healthy people, healthy communities and a healthy workforce. Further, the brochure states that prevention, early action and new forms of treatment are vital to a healthy future. We all have a responsibility to ourselves, our family and our community to do all we can to stay healthy.

I would like to raise with members in this House an initiative that I took as part of Q2 in my local area last Saturday, and that was to host the first ever 'welcoming the babies' event. This was a health initiative and we were very fortunate to have not 20 babies, not 50 babies, not 100 babies but over 140 babies at the ceremony and over 700 people. I can assure members that this is a lot of babies, people and strollers in the one place at the one time.

There were two parts to this event. The first part was a mini citizenship ceremony, which was held in the Elizabeth Bruce Hall. Essentially, that involved mothers and their babies coming forward and receiving a welcoming certificate from me and a native plant from the local councillor, Milton Dick, to welcome our babies into our community.

As part of the Q2 health initiative, we want to stress to young families the importance of early childhood development, particularly for young babies in their early formative years. So we were very lucky to have there local paediatrician Dr Yen Tran, who was able to speak to the mothers about healthy babies and the importance of those early months. We also were very lucky to have some nurses from the Inala Community Health Service attend the event.

After the ceremony mothers were able to take with them an information pack about community services that are available locally. The pack contained information from various government departments that was interesting and informative. There were brochures about how important immunisation is for children, preventing infant tooth decay, teething, keeping teeth and gums healthy during pregnancy, drinks for babies and toddlers and, of course, brochures on how important fruit and vegetables are as children move through those early years. There was also a very good booklet titled *Move Baby Move* from the Department of Sport and Recreation. Outside there was a festive fair environment and there were many local community agencies—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I was on a roll. I thank the community for being involved in this very important initiative.