



Speech by

## John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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### ASHMORE AMCAL PHARMACY; SMITH FAMILY LEARNING FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (9.55 pm): It is my pleasure to speak this evening about a constituent of mine, Carlene Vincent, who is a registered nurse, midwife and expert in antenatal care. In fact, when my children were born Carlene was head of maternity at Allamanda Hospital. She now provides postnatal care at Ashmore pharmacy at Ashmore City and invited me to see how the pharmacy is providing services to postnatal mothers and their babies. Carlene pointed out the following in her letter to me—

Mothers with their babies come along and have weighs and measures done and physical checks done and get advice on breast feeding and how to progress to educational diets.

They are given advice on the need for immunisation and any other queries or concerns they may have encountered ...

Some items that were reviewed by Carlene included cord healing, breastfeeding information and support, birthmarks, infections such as thrush, simple colds, urinary tract infections, sticky eyes and management, the prevention of flat heads, reflux and management, information about immunisation, unsettled periods and management, sleep and management, teething, minor skin problems, and diarrhoea and vomiting. There is also regular weighing and the measurement of head circumference and length as well as information about formulas, how to make them and the sterilisation of teats and bottles. Carlene sees about 1,500 babies a year. This is a very valuable service. As Carlene said in her letter to me, it fills the gaps left by busy government clinics.

The point of my speech this evening is to point out that this is something that Queensland Health should be considering. Peter Forster, in his review of health services, said that we should be trying to access private services more to help the public services that are overrun. I note that the health minister, in response to a recent petition, mentioned that there was increasing access to the range of therapies being provided by allied health professionals within the private sector in terms of mental health. I think it is something that would be commendable to consider for other aspects of health services, such as caring for babies. We know that mothers, especially those who have their second child, really experience a lot of difficulty accessing the clinics for any sort of advice because the health department is so overrun.

The other issue I want to speak about relates to a graduation ceremony that I attended recently. I note that the member for Burleigh is in the House. She was also at this function. It was a graduation ceremony from the Smith Family Learning for Life Scholarship which was held at the Surfers Paradise Transit Centre. Something that I did not know about the Smith Family is that it is the vision of the Smith Family to unlock opportunities for disadvantaged families to participate more fully in society. Sole parenting and a lack of employment choices are the sorts of circumstances that challenge many families.

The Bureau of Statistics says that in 2006 there were over 717,000 children living in jobless households. Since its inception in 1988, the Smith Family Learning for Life Scholarships have helped more than 46,000 students. Through these scholarships students are able to explore their potential, overcome the barrier of social isolation and increase their self-esteem and motivation to succeed. The four program streams are financial scholarships, personal support, personal development and literacy skills.