



Speech by

## Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 18 June 2009

---

### GREENSLOPES ELECTORATE, COORPAROO QUILTERS

**Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.12 pm): In every community, there are special groups of people whose work makes an immeasurable difference at the most basic level to the lives of others—people who give of their time and energy for the sole purpose of helping someone else in need. The impact of what these people do is so valuable and remarkable that it can best be seen in the faces of those people who are affected.

In my community, in the electorate of Greenslopes, one such group is the Coorparoo Quilters. Founded in 1984, this group of around 90 patchwork enthusiasts embodies the very essence of community spirit. Through their volunteer work making beautiful quilts to raffle for charity organisations, such as the Cancer Council and the Multiple Sclerosis Society, this group has for the past 25 years raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for people in need. In the past two years alone, they have raised \$65,000 for cancer research.

But the most significant part of their work which has had and continues to have a lasting effect on the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our community is the quilts that they make for children with serious, long-term illnesses. Linus Quilts, as they are named, in reference to the *Peanuts* cartoon character who constantly carried a comfort blanket, are provided to the Mater Hospital every time they advise the Coorparoo Quilters of a newly admitted child who has a serious, long-term illness. For these children, who are often frightened and confused, the blankets are a special gift, providing them with comfort and making them feel special. The Coorparoo Quilters have made more than 150 of these quilts this year alone. Considering the amount of effort that goes into making quilts, that is an incredible contribution, and the smiles on the faces of the children who receive them prove just how important this work is.

Last month I had the pleasure of joining the Coorparoo Quilters for their 25th anniversary celebrations. The event included the unveiling of a special heritage quilt, which was hand-dyed and quilted by the members of the Coorparoo Quilters as a lasting legacy of their history and of Queensland's history in this the year of the state's 150th birthday. The quilt was made to represent the unique architectural features of the historic Queen Alexandra Home in Coorparoo. The quilt's theme—Reflections of our Past—is especially relevant this year, and I am very pleased the group is donating the quilt to the Queensland Library as a keepsake for future generations. The Bligh government was very pleased to provide almost \$2,600 for the project as part of our Q150 Legacy Infrastructure Program, which is a program that supports projects that will provide Queensland with a lasting reminder of the year's Q150 festivities.

If people want to see evidence of community spirit in action, they need look no further than the generosity of the Coorparoo Quilters. From their first humble gathering in a home 25 years ago, the Coorparoo Quilters, through the friendships they have forged, have created a legacy that will be felt for many generations to come. The work of the Coorparoo Quilters is a tremendous example of the great things we can achieve when we stay connected to the people around us. The group's efforts have made a great difference to the lives of so many people in the electorate of Greenslopes and beyond.