



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Wednesday, 5 August 2009

BONES, MR E; VOLUNTEERS

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.12 pm): I rise in the House to speak about a very special constituent of the Greenslopes electorate, Mr Edward—otherwise known as Ted—Bones, who epitomises what it means to be a volunteer. As many honourable members would know, I was a volunteer for three years in the Pacific island nation of Tuvalu under the then Australian Volunteers Abroad program. Volunteering is something that means a great deal to me. I am grateful that there are people like Ted in my electorate.

It is especially fitting in our 150th anniversary year that we celebrate the achievements and contribution of volunteers who are not always in the forefront but who devote countless hours of their own time to improve opportunities for all Queenslanders without need for reward. A volunteer's contribution to the community cannot be understated and stories such as Ted's, while not unusual for those who dedicate their time to others, are truly inspiring.

Ted has spent his entire life helping others—60 years of active volunteering, an amazing feat. Born into a family that embraced the service that is volunteering, Ted's parents were both founding members of what is now known as the Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland. A founding member himself of the Coorparoo Youth Group, Ted has dedicated more than 20 years to supporting youth and scouting groups around Brisbane. Perhaps most noteworthy, Ted has been highly instrumental in his various roles within the South Moreton branch of the recreational fishing organisation, Sunfish. He has assisted in the creation of fishing programs and angling courses for schoolchildren and children with disabilities. Ted has been hands on, both as a teacher of these courses and in the creation of partnerships with Disability Services Queensland. Further, Ted has liaised with councils and provided consultation to various port authorities on building boat ramps and car parks suitable for the entire community. These are just a few of the services that Ted has dedicated his time towards.

Quite deservedly, Ted has been recently recognised as one of Queensland's top volunteers under the Queensland government's 2009 Sport and Recreation Volunteer Awards. I acknowledge the presence in the House this evening of the Minister for Sport and I congratulate him on this terrific awards program. These awards celebrate the volunteers who give their time to bettering sporting and recreational organisations throughout Queensland, organisations that would not survive without their contributions.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of a good community and I am inspired to know that Queensland has the highest rate of volunteers in Australia, with 38 percent of the population participating in some form of volunteer work. That is a great credit to Queensland and a great credit to the calibre and integrity of who Queenslanders are. I am even more inspired to know that my electorate is home to dedicated volunteers such as Ted. I would like to take this opportunity, as I stand here in parliament, to congratulate him on his very deserving award as one of Queensland's top volunteers.