



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 17 September 2009

BRISBANE TOUCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (6.10 pm): I rise in the House to share the actions of one of the Greenslopes electorate's hardworking sporting organisations, the Brisbane City Touch Association. I was pleased to be given the opportunity to be part of the official opening of the 15th year of the Brisbane Touch Championships, which, for the first year, is under the management of the Brisbane City Touch Association.

This championship sees 16 touch associations from as far south as Labrador, north to Caboolture and west to Toowoomba compete in the men's and women's open and two levels, as well as the men's over-30s. I believe this year's championships would not have gone ahead without the hard work of the president of the Brisbane City Touch Association, Peter Bell, and the acting regional administrator, Sarah Aitken.

Acting as the peak body for the Brisbane region, the Brisbane City Touch Association has been providing this service for the sport of touch football for 25 years. Operating out of the Whites Hill Reserve in Camp Hill in my electorate, this regional body governs five large affiliated associations which look after a total of 1,500 teams per year, equating to approximately 18,000 players.

The Brisbane City Touch Association is responsible for all regional events including the well-known annual First Contact Sports and Cultural Festival, which sees 300 Indigenous teams compete. A further major role of the association is to assist in the development of the sport of touch football in the Brisbane region and to provide the accreditation courses for officials, coaches and selectors.

Sending teams to the National Touch League is something the Brisbane City Touch Association prides itself on. In the last national competition 11 teams from the association were sent, which was the largest contingent of any region across the whole of Australia. These national level teams included men's, women's and mixed opens as well as senior opens across an age division of 27 years up to 55 years. Currently the Brisbane City Touch Association is sending two youth teams to the National Youth Championships in Port Macquarie which are on at the moment.

Touch football is a non-contact sport that can be played by both males and females, socially or competitively with a low injury rate—a sport that is available for anyone to join in, no matter age or ability. I would like to wish all of the teams the best of luck for this championship and reiterate how wonderful it is to see so many players from the south side of Brisbane and beyond who are interested in the active and social sport of touch football. In conclusion, I thank the Brisbane City Touch Association for the opportunity it gives to residents of the state electorate of Greenslopes to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle.