



Speech by
Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 20 August 2009

**PERRY PARK, YMCA FACILITY; SPORTING ORGANISATIONS,
ASSISTANCE**

Ms GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (9.59 pm): Under Toward Q2 the government is committed to making Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people. That is why we continue to provide support for programs, projects and facilities that help Queenslanders, particularly young Queenslanders, participate in sport and active recreation. Therefore, I am particularly pleased to welcome the recent announcement that Bowen Hills residents will benefit from a \$4 million government sports funding boost. Together with the YMCA, the new \$11 million multipurpose community indoor sport and recreation centre will be built at Perry Park in Bowen Hills as part of Brisbane's urban footprint for the future. This YMCA facility will be the central hub for the growing Bowen Hills community, which is expected to grow by 10,000 new residents in the next 10 to 20 years.

The \$4 million provided to the YMCA over the next three years under the Major Facilities Program will help construct this modern indoor sport and recreation centre providing for netball, soccer, futsal, basketball and other health and fitness activities. We all know that playing sport and getting active is one of the best ways to improve our quality of life, both physically and socially, and Perry Park is ideally located for many northside residents.

As part of the declared urban development area, the new Bowen Hills centre will be making maximum use of existing space. It will be sharing the site with the Brisbane Strikers Football Club, providing additional community meeting and training facilities, including creche and small cafe facilities. The centre will also provide opportunities for state, national and international training and competition for gymnastics and disabled sports, including wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby.

Without this funding program, it is often impossible for sporting and recreation organisations such as the YMCA in Brisbane to fund major sporting and community infrastructure. I would particularly like to commend the work of Alan Bray and Ross Melville of the YMCA for their vision, hard work and commitment in making this project at Perry Park a reality. It has been a delight working with them and assisting them where possible.

In addition, I want to thank and acknowledge the work of the Minister for Sport, who has taken a keen interest since his appointment to the Sport portfolio. Soon after the devastating storms and floods a couple of months back, Minister Reeves and I visited the Brisbane Women's Hockey Association and the Downey Park Netball Association, where we witnessed firsthand the extensive damage that was caused by flooding. It was not a pretty sight, with nearly-new equipment, records and facilities ruined. Following the floods, the government immediately announced the Sport and Recreation Disaster Assistance Program to assist badly affected clubs with funds to help restore and repair courts, fences, clubhouses and equipment damaged by the rising waters.

I am extremely pleased that the Downey Park Netball Association, the Brisbane Women's Hockey Association and the Brisbane City Soccer Club have received a total of \$75,000—\$25,000 each—in disaster funding, helping to get these clubs back quickly to full operation so that they can continue

providing great sporting facilities and programs for the thousands of players who use these facilities on a daily basis. I know that they are very grateful for the assistance and for the quick manner in which their applications were processed. The players are now back out there playing sport and getting active.