



Speech by

## Hon. Margaret Keech

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

Hansard Wednesday, 2 September 2009

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### ALBERT ELECTORATE, SENIORS WEEK

**Hon. MM KEECH** (Albert—ALP) (9.53 pm): The 2009 Seniors Week in Albert was a great opportunity for the community to recognise and pay tribute to the valuable contribution of our seniors, as well as providing an opportunity to enjoy the winter sunshine and to get fit and healthy in the park.

With the theme 'Positively Ageless', I joined the Studio Village Community Centre in hosting a stall at the very successful Northern Gold Coast Seniors Expo, held at the Oxenford and Coomera Community Youth Centre. The expo was most successful, with seniors travelling from across northern Gold Coast to access the information provided by industry service providers. As well, they really appreciated the very important services available to the elderly through the Public Trustee of Queensland and the Office of the Adult Guardian. That was just the beginning of a full weekend of activities.

The Studio Village Community Centre, under the expert guidance of the community development officer, Veronica Cox, then held a Sunday afternoon in the park with free entertainment based around the popular television show *Australia's Got Talent*. The event was of course appropriately renamed 'Seniors Have Talent'. Sponsored by the Department of Communities and the Gold Coast City Council, the crowd was entertained with a number of musical performances, together with a fantastic art exhibition featuring masterpieces created by our very own local seniors.

I was pleased to be joined at the Studio Village park event by some VIP Albert seniors—my very own parents, Vic and Val Rogers, who, together with the rest of the audience, enjoyed the vocals of Marilyn Rantall and acclaimed violinist Brian Stevenson. I was pleased to give a very special acknowledgement in my speech to another crowd favourite, and one from my own teenage years, cabaret artist Rob McCullough, whom I and some of the other members of the audience recognised from *Young Talent Time*.

The week reinforced the key Seniors Week messages—helping improve community attitudes towards older people, supporting community participation and activity by older people, and enhancing community connections and intergenerational relationships. Congratulations to Veronica Cox, Brian Bedford and the whole team of volunteers at the Studio Village Community Centre, who always work so hard to ensure local seniors are welcomed and supported.

The Albert Seniors Week was truly a fantastic event. It was based on the theme 'Positively Ageless', which says that age is never a barrier to living a full and active life. Instead, as Abraham Lincoln said, 'In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.' Happy Seniors Week to Albert seniors.