



Speech by

Vicky Darling

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms DARLING (Sandgate—ALP) (10.22 pm): October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Today in Australia there are many organisations involved in breast cancer awareness and fundraising for research and support services.

On Monday, 5 October I attended a Pink Ribbon Breakfast at McDonald's at Bracken Ridge which was organised by Monique Cardiff. It was a lovely morning. I met a survivor of breast cancer, a relative of a survivor, friends of survivors and community members who wanted to play their part in raising funds for vital breast cancer research. I was lucky enough to win a raffle, which included a beautiful Jane McGrath rose bush. So I thought it my duty to pass on this good fortune and to pass on the message about breast cancer.

So when I visited Nashville State School the following week to celebrate its \$50,000 win in the NAB Schools First Impact Awards for outstanding performance in school-community partnerships for its community 'Garden of Promise', I took the opportunity to talk to the parents, students and teachers about breast cancer awareness. I gave the Jane McGrath rose bush to the prep students to plant in their sensory garden and encouraged them to study hard in maths and science because the lifestyle of cancer sufferers depends on continued research by our scientists now and into the future.

This Friday I will again attend the Sonomas of Sandgate Pink Ribbon Research Luncheon. Last year this event raised \$25,000 for the National Breast Cancer Foundation's research program and this year the aim is \$30,000. Gaye Forbes and Nikki Ballish do a magnificent job in organising this special event on the Sandgate calendar, and I look forward to a great lunch.

BreastScreen Queensland expects to screen 235,000 women in 2009-10, a 7.8 per cent increase from the 2008-09 year. The increase is encouraging, but more women need to utilise the service. Queensland will be the first state to implement digital mammography state-wide for BreastScreen Queensland which will also increase the number of women that can be screened. Fifty-three analogue mammography machines have been converted or replaced with state-of-the-art digital mammography equipment, including six mobiles, at a total cost of \$16.5 million. I would encourage women of the Sandgate electorate between the ages of 50 and 69 years to make a booking with Brisbane Northside Screening and Assessment Service, which is located at 534 Hamilton Road, Chermside. Women aged 40 to 49 and 70 or over are also welcome to have their screenings with BreastScreen Queensland. They can just call 132050 to make an appointment or discuss their requirements. No referral is required. If a screening does find a cancer, Queensland Health professionals and organisations like Breast Cancer Network Australia are there to support women all the way through their treatment.

I thank all the local organisations and individuals who have embraced Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I will continue to hope that a pathway to prevention is just around the corner.