



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 25 March 2010

CARERS QUEENSLAND

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (6.40 pm): On Friday, 12 March 2010 it was my very great privilege to attend the launch of the new education and training unit of Carers Queensland Inc. Carers Queensland is based in the Greenslopes electorate and, as its strategic plan states, is the peak body representing the diverse needs and interests of carers in Queensland. Carers Queensland is dedicated to advancing the recognition of the carer's role in the Queensland community. Carers Queensland does mighty work throughout our state, supporting the one in eight Queenslanders who provide unpaid care to family members and friends with physical or mental illnesses or disabilities, or who are frail.

The new education and training unit will be known as the Widilia Hookham Carer Resource and Training Unit. The training unit has been named in honour of Widilia Hookham. Widilia served on the management committee of Carers Queensland from December 2002 and became Carers Queensland treasurer. She served in that capacity almost continuously until her passing in November 2008. Widilia served Carers Queensland and the families and individuals it represents and supports tirelessly and unstintingly. Widilia's contribution to Carers Queensland, to the communities she served and, most importantly, to her family was remarkable and it was more than appropriate that Carers Queensland should honour her memory by naming the new training centre after her. Widilia's family—her daughters, Dilia and Sarah, Dilia's partner, Warren, and Widilia's grand-daughter, Ava—attended the ceremony. Dilia and Sarah spoke lovingly and proudly about their mother. It was a privilege to have been able to share this important occasion with them.

The new training centre will be of particular use to those Queenslanders caring for others, as Carers Queensland has recently been successful in being registered as a national registered training organisation. This will ensure Carers Queensland can offer eligible family carers the opportunity to undertake a Certificate III in a community services work training course. This is a wonderful service for Carers Queensland to provide and will enable eligible carers to obtain a formal qualification, building on what they would otherwise do through duty, responsibility or simply love in caring for others.

The centre was opened by the Parliamentary Secretary for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs and member for Mount Ommaney, Mrs Julie Attwood, who was representing Minister Annastacia Palaszczuk, who was unable to attend the ceremony. I know both the parliamentary secretary and the minister hold Carers Queensland in very high regard and work closely with it to help improve the lives of Queensland carers. I want to publicly acknowledge the work of all volunteers and staff, including the board of governance, particularly board president Julene Gibson; the CEO of Carers Australia, Joan Hughes; and the CEO of Carers Queensland, Debra Cottrell.

I am proud to have such a valuable community organisation like Carers Queensland based in the Greenslopes electorate and am prouder still to be able to recognise and honour organisations like Carers Queensland in this parliament for everything they do to make our state a better place for all.