



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 15 April 2010

METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.55 pm): Netball is Australia's most popular women's team sport. For many Australian girls and women of all ages, it is their first sport of choice. This is no different in the Greenslopes electorate, with the Metropolitan Districts Netball Association, based at Wembley Park at Coorparoo, giving southsiders the opportunity to play and participate in this fantastic sport for more than 35 years.

On Sunday, 28 March 2010, I was delighted to be able to officially open the association's annual representative carnival. The 2010 carnival gave the opportunity for players from 135 teams from 34 associations, as well as their friends, family members, supporters and spectators from the Sunshine Coast, Caboolture, Pine Rivers, Redlands, Ipswich and northern New South Wales and all points in between, to participate in, or otherwise be part of, a wonderful day of competition. More than 1,500 people participated in or attended the annual carnival.

The carnival competition included 12 years teams all the way through to 17 years teams and some senior teams. I am pleased to report that the Metropolitan 14 years team went through the tournament undefeated. I want to pay tribute this evening to the hardworking members of the association's executive, particularly the association's president, Trish Jachimowicz, for their efforts in making the carnival such a success. Each week people such as Trish, vice-president Geoff Moloney, treasurer Christine Gould and others such as coaching and development convenor Sue Maidment and volunteers such as Mal and Kay Kelly, who sit on the desk at Wembley Park each and every Saturday, give the opportunity for literally hundreds of girls and young women to experience fun, excitement and team sport at its very best. Mal and Kay Kelly's daughter played for Metropolitan and now their granddaughter enjoys the fun of netball. I want to thank them for their volunteer work for the club.

I also wish to recognise the wonderful work of other volunteers, such as umpire Hayden Lenz, and coaches Jamie O'Connor, Camille Dowling and Amanda Stag, among others. They represent the hundreds of mums and dads, family members, friends and helpers who make volunteer sport happen in the Greenslopes electorate and in other parts of Brisbane's southern suburbs each week.

It was also wonderful to see one of Australia's all-time netballing greats, Vicki Wilson, who coaches the association's 15 years team, urging her players on in one game that I watched. I know that Vicki has at times described herself as a 'Metro girl through and through' and to see her giving back to the sport at a grassroots level was remarkable.

The Metropolitan Districts Netball Association is a community focused sporting club. It strives to do whatever it can to be a good neighbour to local residents and fully supports the community use of the club's grounds. I thank the association for letting me be part of an important day in their annual sporting calendar. I look forward to doing what I can to support them as their local state member of parliament.