



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 16 September 2010

GREENSLOPES ELECTORATE, COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUMS

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.16 pm): Community safety is an issue of great importance to people who live in the electorate of Greenslopes. It is also important to me, not only as the local state member for Greenslopes but also as the Attorney-General of Queensland. As a result of the community's interest in this topic, I arranged two events in recent months to help raise awareness and provide vital information about safety issues for the residents of Greenslopes. Firstly, in late July, I hosted a community safety forum for every Neighbourhood Watch group within the Greenslopes electorate at the Holland Park Bowls Club. This event was extremely well supported by local police, including the Commissioner himself, Bob Atkinson APM. On behalf of the residents of Greenslopes I thank Commissioner Atkinson for giving up a couple of hours of his valuable time on a Saturday afternoon to speak with our Neighbourhood Watch representatives. Commissioner Atkinson's support for the forum was matched by many local police officers who also attended.

They included Inspector Owen Elloy from the recently refurbished Upper Mount Gravatt Police Station; Senior Sergeant Craig Smith from the Holland Park Police Station; Senior Sergeant Kev Fitzgibbon from the Coorparoo Police Station; Sergeant Ross Frassetto and Senior Constable Michelle Mullen, who are district crime prevention coordinators; and Detective Senior Constable Rod Shelton of the Fraud and Corporate Crime Group. I thank them for attending and I thank them for serving our local community. We also enjoyed the company of Sergeant Sean Bexandall from the Dog Squad and his offside, police dog Wolf, who was without doubt the star of the afternoon, as well as Mr Alex Wright and Ms Robyn McDonough from the Volunteer in Policing program. They all provided valuable insights and information about crime and safety in the Greenslopes electorate to the audience, which included Neighbourhood Watch coordinators Gary Thorpe; Kevin O'Neill; Keith Reichmann; Peter Williams; and Roy Rickuss. I thank them, as well as another Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, Del Kent, who was unable to attend the forum due to family illness, for their leadership role in community safety. I must also thank Holland Park Bowls Club president Selwyn Fryer and the members of the Ladies Bowls Club for their hospitality and assistance on the day with refreshments.

It should be noted that despite some of the claims regularly bandied about in this chamber, Queensland in general, and the electorate of Greenslopes in particular, is a safe place to live and work. Thanks to the hard work of the government and the Queensland Police Service, crime rates are down by more than 20 per cent since Labor came to power and clearance rates are up. I was also pleased to work with Sergeant David Beard from the Carindale PCYC to host an online security forum for seniors last month. This forum, which attracted about 50 attendees, was designed to help Greenslopes' senior citizens improve their knowledge of the internet and to take appropriate precautions against scams and other pitfalls while operating online.

Among the interesting speakers who gave presentations were Dr Cassandra Cross, a research analyst from the Queensland Police Service's Crime Prevention Unit; Detective Senior Constable Graham Edwards from the Fraud Squad; Ms Melissa Clarke from the Westpac branch at Carindale; and Mr Chris Moffatt, director of computer company SuperGeek. Once again we enjoyed great hospitality from our hosts at the Holland Park-Mt Gravatt RSL Club, Sonja and Alan Hellier, and delicious catering from Helen Tully and Holland Park Meals on Wheels. Both of these forums were extremely valuable and informative exercises and I thank everyone who contributed to their success.