



Speech by  
**Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Wednesday, 10 March 2010

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### **CAFE ONE**

**Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (11.43 am): On Friday, 26 February it was a pleasure to join Minister Karen Struthers at Mission Australia's Cafe One, located in Wickham Street in the Valley. I love going to Cafe One, but on that particular morning it was a special event as the launch of the publication *The changing taste of welfare services: the evolution of Cafe One—a gateway to change* was undertaken by the minister, and I commend the publication's authors. It was great to join state director, Tony Stevenson, to receive the welcome to country by hardworking staff member George Blair and to hear from Queensland chaplain Tim Booth about the services offered at Cafe One. This publication coincides with the special 150th anniversary of Mission Australia. And what a proud and long history of service to vulnerable people in our community has Mission Australia established.

Interestingly, the publication that was launched concentrates on the role that the provision of food to disadvantaged people has played in Mission Australia's history in Queensland—a journey that began with the Brisbane City Mission and one that continues today through Cafe One. What can be more important than providing nutritious food to the hungry together with providing other social needs in an environment that ensures that people who are on the fringes of society benefit from having their issues addressed in a respectful and responsible way.

Queensland chaplain Tim Booth spoke about how engaging people over food can enable staff to explore and address often difficult social issues in a calm, respectful and non-judgemental manner and also the benefits that the provision of food can have on those who are experiencing social exclusion. Food is a basic need and the recently renovate Cafe One is a modern looking, up-to-date cafe that provides yummy meals. Both the minister and I can confirm that the coffee is great, the food delicious and the atmosphere inviting and friendly.

We heard from supporters of Cafe One and their clients, who spoke about how the work by and the assistance from staff changed their lives and how being able to get daily good meals in a welcoming environment gives them dignity and hope. Congratulations to all involved. Happy 150th birthday to Mission Australia.

*(Time expired)*