



Speech by
Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 4 August 2010

CEREBRAL PALSY LEAGUE, PICNIC IN THE PARK

Ms GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (10.08 pm): Families looking for a fun weekend outing enjoyed a treat when Brisbane's largest free picnic event, Picnic in the Park, run by the Cerebral Palsy League, returned to Roma Street Parklands in my electorate of Brisbane Central on Sunday, 31 July. Picnic in the Park boasted free entry and had something for everyone to enjoy, from amusement rides through to market stalls, all-day entertainment to gourmet food stalls. It was great to be in the company of Minister for Disability Services, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and federal Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, Bill Shorten, who delivered a great speech on the day, supporting those who were there enjoying the day, particularly those who were members of the Cerebral Palsy League.

It was also great to be joined by many directors of the Cerebral Palsy League. In particular, Helen Darch did a great job stepping in for the chair, Rowena McNally, who was not able to join us. Also in attendance were directors Susan Rix, Des Orr and Ron Porter, and it was great to catch up with all of them. CEO, Angela Tillmanns, staff and volunteers did an excellent job organising the day. But, in particular, I want to make a specific mention of Mrs Joan Williams, past director and president of the Parents and Guardians Committee of the CPL, who has worked tirelessly for many years in all of the activities of the Cerebral Palsy League.

Over 4,000 Queenslanders were expected to attend the CPL's Picnic in the Park, supported by the Treasury Casino and Hotel. Congratulations go to CEO, Geoff Hogg, and his daughter Jasmine who was also in attendance for their ongoing support of this fine event. The annual event aims to raise awareness and celebrate the achievements of people with cerebral palsy and a physical disability and it marked the start of Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week from 1 to 7 August. All funds raised on the day will help CPL continue to make a real difference to the lives of Queenslanders with a physical disability.

CPL has its headquarters in New Farm, a wonderful suburb in my electorate of Brisbane Central. It was formed in 1948 by a group of concerned parents to provide services that were not otherwise available from other community agencies. Today, CPL is the largest non-government disability services provider for people with a physical disability in Queensland. It currently assists more than 3,000 people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities and is supported through fundraising activities and support from the community, the corporate sector and state and federal governments. CPL spends millions of dollars a year to provide services to assist thousands of people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities to reach their goals. These goals may include educational attainment, independent living, meaningful employment and participating and contributing within the wider community. I know all in attendance had a wonderful day. It truly is a great event. Congratulations go to the organisers and all the supporters of the Cerebral Palsy League.