



Speech by

Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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KAWANA ELECTORATE, POOL SAFETY

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (11.00 pm): It gives me pleasure to rise this evening and announce to the House what is a coup for all prep students and their families in the Kawana electorate. We have previously debated in this House the importance of pool safety regulations, with specific reference to pool fencing. But tonight I would like to address the House on a different aspect of pool safety.

I am sure that all members would have heard of the legendary Australian swimming identity Mr Laurie Lawrence. Honourable members will remember Laurie's famous reaction at the 1988 Seoul Olympics when Duncan Armstrong famously won the 200-metre freestyle gold medal over the favourite Matt Biondi, in a world record breaking performance. Immediately after the race when asked if he thought Duncan could do it, in a typical fashion, Laurie replied, 'Mate, why do you think we come here for, for silver ... stuff the silver, we come for the gold.'

Laurie's passion is still in the pool but is solely focused on educational purposes. He now runs the Laurie Lawrence Swim School in Brisbane, which specialises in teaching people about safety aspects of pool safety. Laurie has pioneered the Kids Alive—Do the Five program and DVD. I am honoured to announce tonight that next month Laurie Lawrence is visiting the Kawana electorate to present a copy of his DVD to all prep students in the electorate. I have the privilege of accompanying Laurie on a tour around the electorate as we visit 661 prep students in the seven primary schools to present them each with a copy of the DVD. That will mean 661 students and their families will have a valuable instructional, interactive and educational DVD on water safety leading into summer and the busy Christmas period.

For all those who are unaware, Kids Alive—Do the Five refers to the following five water safety lessons that are sung with a catchy tune, which I will refrain from doing—

1. Fence the pool
2. Shut the gate
3. Teach your kids to swim—it's great
4. Supervise—watch your mate and
5. Learn how to resuscitate

Laurie created the Kids Alive—Do the Five water safety program in 1988 to highlight the awareness of the increase in drowning of pre-school-aged children. I am very pleased that Laurie has taken the time out of his busy schedule on 10 November to come to Kawana to continue the promotion of his water safety initiatives.

This also follows on from the CPR certification initiatives undertaken by the Talara Primary College for their year 7 students. I was delighted to be able to sponsor the initiative with two local businesses—Swimart Currimundi and Jim's Mowing Aroona. All year 7 students at the Talara school undertook the course and are now accredited with the CPR certification. I would like to congratulate College Director Steve Adams and Deputy Principal Lisa Johnson for the coordination of this course, as well as the two local businesses which were able to join with me and financially contribute to the funding of the program.

This is the second year that I have sponsored the CPR certification and I look forward to a continued involvement in years to come.

I am looking forward to the 10th when Laurie Lawrence comes to the Kawana electorate. As I said, 661 students will walk away that day with the Kids Alive—Do the Five DVD. I think that is great for the society and for swimming in general.

(Time expired)