



Speech by

**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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## **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, WORLD LIONS SERVICE DAY**

**Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (9.48 pm): Today is Lions Clubs International World Lions Service Day, which is a day to celebrate Lions' service to the community and the very first convention, held in Dallas Texas, in 1917. Last Saturday night I had the honour of proposing the toast to Lions Clubs International at the charter meeting of the Lions Club of Sanctuary Cove. The growth in LCI is assured in my electorate, with this being the second club to charter within just a few months. The Lions Club of Sanctuary Cove and the Lions Club of Coomera Waters join the clubs of Twin Rivers, Ormeau and Helensvale as groups of locals who serve our community and help those in need.

We need go no further than the LCI's 'purposes' for an explanation of where LCI's success comes from. Keeping those 'purposes' in mind causes each member to focus on principles that bring about positive outcomes with a spirit of understanding—a focus on what is good government and what is meant by the term good citizenship and what it means to be active members of the local and broader community. Individuals bond together and work as one, developing friendship and understanding, and they promote and encourage bipartisanship in all aspects of life and promote service above personal profit.

There are 1.35 million members around the world in 46,000 clubs who are actively practising these principles. It is no surprise that LCI has a powerful, positive influence on our community. Those positive influences manifest themselves on the international stage through such programs as Sight First: Lions Conquering Blindness. The program is described as an aggressive global prevention initiative aimed at eliminating preventable blindness. These are powerful words for positive goals and achievements.

Another focus of LCI's activities is that of youth programs that provide young people with opportunities—opportunities for achievement, opportunities for learning, opportunities to make a contribution to the community. In focusing on youth programs, LCI is nurturing a trait that, I believe, is in all Lions members. That trait, properly nurtured, will stay with them throughout their lives. And in providing those opportunities, future growth of service clubs such as Lions is guaranteed.

Of course there are many other programs, including programs through the Lions Clubs International Foundation, whose three major objectives are: the provision of major disaster relief, vocational training programs to help the underprivileged and those with disabilities gain independence, and humanitarian services. I know it is a cliché, but all of these things are being achieved because ordinary people are doing extraordinary things, and, I must say, with unmatched integrity and energy.

The point I make here is that the work of Lions members is the cornerstone of a club's success and therefore the cornerstone of the success of Lions Clubs International. I know that all members in this House will join with me on this very special day in recognising Lions Clubs International and the wonderful work they do.