



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Tuesday, 23 February 2010

STAFFORD MEALS ON WHEELS

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.18 pm): I recently had the privilege of joining Stafford Meals on Wheels and its team of dedicated volunteers to celebrate their 30th anniversary. Since Stafford Meals on Wheels delivered its first 20 meals on 4 February 1980 from its original kitchen at the Brothers Rugby League Club at Corbett Park, The Grange, it has collectively delivered more than 700,000 meals. I have seen firsthand the work of the 100 or so volunteers at the Stafford kitchen, a facility which was built at Keong Park in 1986—volunteers like Jack Pool, who has dedicated more than 10 years to the organisation. Jack is keeping community service alive on the north side with his selfless contribution to the community for which he deserves to be commended.

There are many integral people who keep this service going and I would like to mention a few who joined the celebrations. I congratulate committee secretary Marilyn Dickson and committee member Mary McDonald for their commitment to this important community service; Bill Hartman who has been a volunteer for more than 10 years; and the manager of operations, Gayle Young. I would also like to make special mention of Tom Ellis, who turned 90 recently and is still delivering four meals a week—a truly remarkable effort. Whether they help out every day, one day a month or, like me, once a year, it all makes a difference. We as a community owe every volunteer a great deal of thanks for continually going above and beyond.

An ever-innovative service, in the past 18 months the kitchen has also delivered 540 meals to young mums with postnatal depression and has assisted Nundah Meals on Wheels with more than 25,000 meals. Students from Everton Park State High also regularly volunteer at the kitchen. This provides a tremendous opportunity for the students and community alike.

Stafford Meals on Wheels has welcomed volunteers with a disability from Crossroads at West Chermside who want to give back to the community. In a pioneering program, about three times a month Stafford Meals on Wheels and Crossroads volunteers deliver meals to local elderly residents, with the support of a carer and a volunteer bus driver. The community spirit does not stop there, either. This not-for-profit organisation is also assisted by volunteers from a number of local business including Quest Newspapers, Results Fitness Centre, Harcourts Real Estate and the latest business to come on board, Stafford Bunnings.

Stafford Meals on Wheels is more than a service that delivers a meal. The volunteers are there every day and often they are the only contact many clients have on a daily basis. They deliver meals with a helping of compassion and seasoned with community spirit. I congratulate all volunteers, past and present, who have played a role in the success of Stafford Meals on Wheels.