




Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 27 October 2011

MND AND ME FOUNDATION

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Minister for Education and Industrial Relations) (2.40 pm): A little over a year ago the life of Coorparoo resident Scott Sullivan was changed forever after an MRI revealed that he was suffering from motor neurone disease, or MND. About 1,400 people in Australia have the disease while thousands more, particularly family, friends and colleagues, feel its effects. Scott, who works at Suncorp in risk management, is married with two young children. Where many people would crumble under the pressure, Scott has powered on, establishing the MND and Me Foundation to help raise funds for and awareness about the disease. I want to put on the parliamentary record the names of the foundation board members: Stephen Gifford, Luke Jeffery and Shane Williamson. The foundation was formed in March this year and already its achievements have been significant, including raising \$50,000 at the Gold Coast half marathon.

On Sunday, 16 October the foundation held the inaugural MND and Me Million Metres for MND Swim. The event was the brainchild of southside resident Paul Green, a member of the masters squad at Langlands Park Memorial Pool at Coorparoo, just outside the Greenslopes electorate. The idea was for teams or individuals to swim 10 kilometres. In total 310 swimmers took part—42 individuals and 49 teams—collecting 2,300 donations and raising more than \$180,000. This is a phenomenal outcome. I want to pay tribute to some of the people who made the event possible. Congratulations to the charity swim organisational committee—Paul and Jane Green, Kate Thurecht, Luke Jeffery, Stephen Clarke, John Townend and Scott Sullivan. Congratulations also to Danny Gifford, who designed an excellent website for the cause. Thank you to Jan and Tony Arndt, pool managers at Langlands Park Memorial Pool, for hosting the swim at a southside sporting institution. I make a special mention of Paul Green, who completed the swim on his own, raising more than \$11,500. I give a big thankyou also to Olympic swimming great Jessicah Schipper, who lent her talents to the cause. People can help raise funds and awareness by visiting the website at www.mndandme.com.au. I meet a lot of people in this job, but rarely do I cross paths with a man as brave, as generous or as rich in spirit as Scott Sullivan. In the face of the most tremendous adversity, Scott is distinguishing himself as an extraordinary Queenslander.