



Speech by


**Mark Ryan**

**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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### TESSMANN, MR N

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (12.27 am): A few months ago I was very honoured to meet Nathan Tessmann, a young inspirational man who has a passion for music and for inspiring other people to chase their dreams. I met Nathan at the launch of his first EP, called *One Chance*, on 27 April at the Velvet Waters Rock 'n' Roll Theatre Restaurant at Caloundra.

Nathan, or MC Wheels as his fans will call him, is a young man who suffers from a rare nerve disease that confines him to a wheelchair. He was born with a neuromuscular condition called axonal neuropathy. He has been in a wheelchair all his life, but he has not let the challenges of his daily life limit his ability to inspire others and chase his dreams. MC Wheels hopes to become a recognised hip-hop artist. After attending his EP launch, I certainly have every confidence that he has the ability, talent, determination and opportunity to achieve his dreams. You only have to listen to the lyrics of the songs written and performed by MC Wheels to appreciate the meaningfulness and the inspiration that accompanies his musical talents and pursuits.

As part of his EP launch, a documentary video of Nathan's journey was shown. As an insight into his life and struggles, Nathan said, 'There was nothing in my life that I was achieving,' and, 'All I wanted was to be the boy that got cheered on,' and, 'I want to be happy,' and, 'I want to be known for something. I just want to be someone. I don't want to be known as the person in the wheelchair. Dreams are achievable. Nothing is impossible.' I thought I would share some lyrics from a couple of MC Wheels' songs. This song is called *One Chance* and the chorus says—

You only get one chance  
and I'm straightening it out  
and you're never going to take it  
away from me now.

There are some meaningful and inspirational words there. Lyrics of another song, called *Girl of My Dreams*, say—

She has the most beautiful face  
and I think she's ace  
but it's not about the cash, it's about the girl.  
Make me go crazy, make me go insane  
but all I want to do is keep her  
in my brain—she's on my mind.

A production company called Live Life Productions is making a documentary about Nathan's journey and it hopes to have the documentary ready for the 2012 Australian Film Festival. One of the producers is Roger Kitson and he says about MC Wheels—

He is a shining example of what people can achieve.

I wish MC Wheels all the very best for his musical career. I am sure he will do very well.