




Speech by

Anthony Shorten

MEMBER FOR ALGERIE

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THE SPOT COMMUNITY SERVICES

 **Mr SHORTEN** (Algerie—LNP) (12.32 am): Tonight I rise to talk about a wonderful community hub that I had the pleasure of touring last week. It is simply called The Spot. The Spot Community Services started out in 1996 as a youth drop-in centre in an empty warehouse in Browns Plains and it was run by five volunteers. As an initiative of the Southside Community Church—now Church on the Spot—The Spot later registered as a limited not-for-profit company. Now approximately 30 paid and volunteer staff with a passion for the community make The Spot a safe, comfortable and non-sectarian environment for participants in the southern region of Brisbane and Logan.

The Spot has grown over the years and has now moved to a purpose-built building in the industrial park on the corner of Beaudesert Road and Johnson Road in Parkinson. This new community youth hub will enable The Spot to grow its programs and social enterprises and will continue to provide high-quality services to the community. The youth hub includes an indoor rockclimbing gym, a performance hall, a community radio station, a recording studio, a cafe, a 24/7 chapel and training rooms. I was shown around the new hub by Mr Ken Houliston, executive director, and Ms Dorleen Bradshaw, the marketing and business manager. As Ken said to me, he is the ideas man and Dorleen is the woman who makes it all happen.

The Spot community hub is supported by an in-house company called Spot on Homes. Spot on Homes has two objectives: to raise funds that will contribute to the operation of The Spot Community Services and to provide an environment in which our young people can gain hands-on experience in the construction industry. Spot on Homes began in 2008 with the construction and sale of the 'house of hope'. Since then, Spot on Homes has built more than 19 homes. Spot on Homes is beginning to break into the investment property market and anticipates construction of 20 homes in the next financial year. I commend Ken Houliston for his initiative in setting up an independent line of financial support rather than pinning hope on the vagaries of government funding. That is not to say that alternative funding sources are not welcome—on the contrary. The services that The Spot provide for the community are made possible because of the multiplier effect of every dollar received.

Earlier I mentioned the fully equipped rockclimbing gym. I honestly do not think words do it justice. It has a three-storey centre rock wall built around a four-sided pillar and it has three other walls of varying degrees of difficulty. Also, it does not stop on the vertical but continues across the roof. The beauty of it is that, once you get to the top, you can actually abseil back down. They are currently using it to run a linesmen's course for Energex, but the centre will be open to the public when it is not in use for courses.

I commend Ken Houliston and Dorleen Bradshaw for their initiative at The Spot. It is a wonderful community hub. I look forward to taking my family and any ministers who wish to come with me there for a cup of coffee at their fully catered cafe.