




Speech by

Dr Chris Davis

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2012

QUEENSLAND KIDS; HEALTH LAW RESEARCH CENTRE

 **Dr DAVIS** (Stafford—LNP) (12.17 am): The evening of Saturday, 20 October 2012 was a very special night in the Stafford electorate as it was the inaugural Turning the Light On for Hummingbird House dinner to raise vital funds for the children's charity Queensland Kids. Our marvellous and generous host and sponsor was the Bank of Queensland Stafford branch manager, Ms Tammie Smart. The venue was the excellent Brothers Grange Community Sports Club. There was fantastic music from a number of entertainers.

It was a great evening with the very serious purpose of helping to raise \$6 million to establish Hummingbird House, a hospice for children's end-of-life care, aiming to provide a much needed supportive home away from home for families devastated by a child's life-limiting disease. I was honoured to be guest speaker and provide my support for a service that will play a very essential role in enhancing the quality of life for children whose quantity of life is severely restricted. Co-founders of Queensland Kids, Paul and Gabrielle Quilliam, are to be thanked and congratulated for their vision and deep desire to bring more hope to the lives of these children and their families.

The dedication from health professionals working in this field was very evident, as was the widespread support from families, community members, church and charitable organisations and businesses. They all added to my commitment to do what I can to see this through to delivery.

Another important initiative in this area took place on 25 October with the launch of the Health Law Research Centre, recently established in QUT's Faculty of Law, and recognising the important work of co-directors Professor Ben White and Professor Lindy Willmott and their colleagues. The centre was opened by the Hon. Michael Kirby AC, CMG and Minister Springborg. I was pleased to be there, continuing my longstanding occasional interaction with the co-directors. Amongst its many roles, this centre is helping to ensure that medical and legal systems align in permitting the exercise of appropriate patient and surrogate choice in complex areas such as withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining medical treatment, the provision of futile treatment at end of life and palliative care. This government has a great opportunity to work with community initiatives to ensure that Queenslanders of all ages have access to a full spectrum of quality palliative-care services.