




Speech by

Darren Grimwade

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MORAYFIELD ELECTORATE, JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (2.59 pm): I rise to update the House on a recent Justice of the Peace morning tea that I held in my Morayfield electorate. I recently invited the local JPs to my office to partake in a morning tea in an effort to thank them for the great work they undertake in our community on a daily basis. More importantly, this was an opportunity to listen to the local JPs and understand what resources they needed to support them in their duties and what could be provided from the state government to ensure that these professionals continue to perform their crucial roles in our community.

The morning tea was very informative with many points of view in relation to the JPs' roles, the image of JPs in Queensland, support—including professional development required to keep them up to date with ever-increasing changes—and other issues that are important to JPs as they perform their roles to the best of their abilities. JPs perform a role in our communities that are at times undervalued. Their roles are at times misunderstood by a perception that they are only a signing service. Those performing Justice of the Peace work in our community do so in a voluntary capacity. Contrary to the perception in the community about the role of a JP, these individuals offer services outside of just witnessing documents as a signing service. JPs are required to assist with various ministerial and judicial roles, including witnessing documents, certifying copies, witnessing signatures, hearing summary offences, hearing bail applications and requests for remands and adjournments and issuing search warrants. My hat goes off to the services that these volunteers offer in our community.

Throughout the morning tea it was made very clear to me that the main area of concern in the group was the inability to have local regional seminars and professional development training for their updates. I have investigated this and can confirm to the House that I am working with the Attorney-General and his office and I am in the process of organising a local seminar that all local JPs will be able to attend. It is anticipated that we will discuss many areas in this meeting. This is the first step in listening and working with the local JPs to ensure that they have the support that they need to operate in our community to their full capacity. In finishing today I want to place on record that I value the work performed by our volunteer JPs in our local area and they will always have my full support as they go about their duties in providing a valuable service to our community.