



Speech by

**Ian Walker**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

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## **STORM SAFE PROGRAM**

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (3.14 pm): Last Thursday, 26 July, I had the privilege of launching the Storm Safe Program, which is sponsored by the Mount Gravatt Community Centre. This is a great centre for our local community. It was established in 1991. It has premises at Logan Road, Mount Gravatt. I had the privilege of taking both Lisa Newman and Campbell Newman on separate occasions to tour the centre prior to the last election. They were both very pleasantly surprised by the wonderful activities that take place there.

There are many programs at that centre, from ones as diverse as the Uplift Health Program, the Paints and Palettes Program and basic PC lessons for those who need those skills to be developed, to extensive programs providing emergency relief, in-home support and the Home Assist Secure program as well as many others. This particular launch, the Storm Safe launch, is a new program that the centre is sponsoring. I and the local councillor, Councillor Krista Adams, went to the Sunnybank Community and Sports Club where the program was launched. It was accompanied by some great presentations by the Bureau of Meteorology, Energex and the SES all dealing with the issues surrounding storms. It is a unique program that is being provided. It was put together after the centre surveyed what the needs of our community were. There are many isolated people in our community who feel unsafe and not secure during storm events.

This program provides not a one-size-fits-all but a personalised home service for those people in that situation. It assesses their preparedness on three fronts. Firstly, it looks at their home and the surrounding environment and practical things are dealt with, such as clearing gutters of leaves, lopping trees, cleaning up yards and putting non-slip surfaces on exposed steps and so on so that people are safe if they need to move quickly during a storm. It assesses the personal situation of the individual involved: their support mechanisms and whether there is a neighbour close by or a family member who can help them. It looks at their emergency management support arrangements and, most importantly, it provides a tangible kit to help them through storms with torch, phone pendant, first aid kits, batteries, radio and REDiPlans, water containers and so on. It is backed up by an interactive database online and it really provides great support for our exposed, lonely and insecure people in these very regular storm events. Thank you to chair Ian Lang, CEO Lyn Rose and to project officer Ken Wiltshire for providing this wonderful support to our local community. I urge our businesses in Mansfield to get behind it.