




Speech by

John Hathaway

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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PIMLICO STATE HIGH SCHOOL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA; HEADSPACE

 **Mr HATHAWAY** (Townsville—LNP) (3.06 pm): I take this opportunity to highlight the tremendous and ongoing community efforts of the Pimlico State High School Symphony Orchestra with its recent benefit concert. The concert was held recently at James Cook University showcasing undoubtedly North Queensland's finest musical talents. Music included works by Tchaikovsky, Saint-Saens, Mozart, Mancini and The Beatles featuring pop classics like *Yesterday*, *When I'm 64*, film soundtracks like the *Peter Gunn Theme* and *The Mission* and classics obviously like the *Nutcracker Suite*. Townsville was also treated to a special appearance of the Australian Youth Orchestra String Quartet, which had spent the last few days working with our Pimlico musicians.

Pimlico State High School Symphony was one of 2012 Fanfare's finalists that performed recently at QPAC. I attended the Fanfare finale and witnessed just how amazing and talented the students in the Pimlico symphony orchestra really are. While the student musicians themselves are the stars, the efforts of their musical director, Mr Richard Newell, should likewise be acknowledged.

All of the musicians maintain a strong community focus and actively support a number of charities, with the highlight of the orchestra's musical year program being the benefit concert. Each year the students prepare for the concert program, promote the concert and sell the tickets. All of the proceeds from these concerts are given to specific local charities, and this year the supported charity was Townsville Headspace. I can report to the House that this year they raised \$7,000 for Headspace.

Honourable members will recall how passionately my colleague from Thuringowa has spoken on Townsville Headspace. Headspace was established in 2006 and provides much needed support to young people aged between 12 and 25, in particular those children who suffer from a mental health illness. One in four people endures a mental health issue at least once in their life, and for many of them their first mental health issue will occur between the ages of 12 and 25. There is also a known cumulative effect of subsequent mental health issues that are best dealt with through early intervention. Of mental health issues for youth and children, anxiety is the most common, and Headspace provides a much needed intervention to assist young people with their illnesses.

Since 2008 Townsville Headspace has delivered over 16,000 occasions of service, with 5,000 of those services being delivered last year. Headspace relies on volunteers who coordinate and run events to help raise much needed funds to support these programs. The Pimlico State High School benefit concert not only supports these programs but proceeds also go to buying necessary equipment like fridges and water stations et cetera. I commend to the House the community engagement activities of the Pimlico State High School Symphony Orchestra and wish its members all of the best for their continued musical success.