




Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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JACOBS WELL, VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.25 pm): It seems like it is a day to recognise marine rescue organisations. My good friend and colleague the member for Gympie has talked about the Tin Can Bay coastguard. I would like to take the opportunity to talk about Volunteer Marine Rescue at Jacobs Well. What a fantastic organisation that is. I am proud to say that my son is a volunteer there along with many of his friends.

There was a recent rescue written up in the paper, and it managed to get on the television as well. I am proud to say that my son was involved in that particular rescue.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr CRANDON: You may say that there is a conflict of interest, but I am a very proud father and a very proud member of parliament who has the Volunteer Marine Rescue at Jacobs Well in his electorate, which does a terrific job.

The bottom line is that two fishermen decided to go fishing. They did not log on with Volunteer Marine Rescue as they left. They decided that they were going to cross Jumpinpin Bar. They decided not to notify Volunteer Marine Rescue that they were going to cross the bar. Seven hours later, having spilled out of their boat and having swum back, one of them was finally seen by a fisherman. It was very fortunate for them that someone else was there. Within 30 minutes the VMR Jacobs Well had arrived and had picked up that patient, who had a temperature of 32 degrees and was treated for hypothermia. Within 15 minutes they located the other fellow, who was also treated for hypothermia as well as for hypoglycemia because he is a type 1 diabetic. They were two very lucky men. Fortunately, the VMR also had on board off-duty paramedical Nick Coombes, who was able to use all of his skills in helping keep these fellows alive.

There are three key messages that come out of this. The first is about community safety. It is all about people making sure that they do the right thing when they go out and that is that they notify the local Volunteer Marine Rescue or coastguard that they are going out and when they expect to be back. No-one knew these men had gone out. No-one knew that they were missing until they were accidentally found.

The second thing is that we need more recruits at VMR Jacobs Well and right around the state. We need people to come along and be volunteers on these vessels and be properly trained. The third thing is that we need boaties to become associate members of Volunteer Marine Rescue, just like people are with the RACQ, and be part of it. The big message though is to log on with VMR before you go, notify VMR before you cross the bar and notify VMR after you get back.

(Time expired)