




Speech by

Steve Davies

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

Hansard Tuesday, 30 October 2012

SCHOOLIES WEEK

 **Mr DAVIES** (Capalaba—LNP) (10.15 pm): It is a great pleasure to rise to talk about an issue that every electorate in this state has to deal with—that is, schoolies week. All of us have high schools—

Mr Hart: They are all coming to the Gold Coast.

Mr DAVIES: They go to the Gold Coast. The rite of passage that is schoolies is a bit of a challenge for many people. I have had the great pleasure of being involved with a group called the Red Frogs, a chaplaincy group that works with school leavers—

Mr Powell: Andy Gourley.

Mr DAVIES: Andy Gourley. This year will be their 15th year. I was actually involved back in the early days, when there were only 10 of us down there on the Gold Coast handing out the red frogs. I was one of the original froggers. This year they are actually operating in five locations in Queensland as well as through Victoria and in other states of Australia. This year Red Frogs will be on the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Magnetic Island, Airlie Beach—

Mr Cox: Maggie is a good place.

Mr DAVIES: They are all over the place. They are doing a great job working with our young people and providing a safety net. They are not a bunch of wowsers; they work with young people to provide a safety net to them.

This year, leading up to schoolies, they have actually done over 200 presentations in schools, working with year 12s in schoolies survival seminars—basically teaching them not to have just beer in your fridge but also food, that food is a good thing during schoolies. And they advise people to take a picture of their room when they arrive so that they do not get stung for broken things that were already broken. They work with students to provide them with some good tips on surviving schoolies.

This year over four tonnes of Allens Red Frogs will be handed out in Queensland. JP is not here tonight, but I am sure he would agree that that is actually contributing to the dentistry industry in Queensland. Last year 3,947 pancake breakfasts were provided by Red Frogs. This year there will be 950 volunteers, who are meeting their own costs and often taking holidays to work at schoolies. Last year there were over 10,000 calls to the call centre. Of this, 468 were alcohol related, 43 were drug related and 73 were mental health issues.

The work of Red Frogs is fantastic. I commend the government for continuing to support this great initiative. I commend Minister Davis for her ongoing support of Red Frogs. It is a great initiative.