




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Townsville Electorate, Health and Fitness

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (3.21 pm): I rise this afternoon to raise an issue that is quite embarrassing for me to talk about, but something that I think my city needs to address head on. Queensland Health's *Self-reported health status 2012* found that our city has the most number of obese people in the state. That is something I am not particularly proud of. We had over 10 per cent more than the state average. It is something we have to address. The report raised a number of pertinent points, including that it is particularly a problem in the lower socioeconomic group. It spoke about the economic cost. Diabetes Queensland spoke about the cost of treating people who are overweight. It focused particularly on children. That is where the real issue is. As someone who has more than a dozen schools in their electorate, I want to make a contribution and make a difference.

There is absolutely no reason Townsville should have this title. We have a great climate for exercising.

Mr Bleijie: Not when you have Castle Hill.

Mr CRISAFULLI: As the Attorney-General just said, we have the magnificent Castle Hill. It is never too cold to exercise. We have wonderful exercise facilities such as the Strand, Riverway, the Murray sports complex and the beautiful paths along the Ross River which are absolutely stunning. We also have national sporting teams for our children to aspire to. These are things that to my mind can help make a contribution.

So what can we do as a government and what can we do as a community? First of all, I want to make sure we support those activities which focus on a healthy lifestyle. It was great to be able to make a contribution to the running festival. I acknowledge that the Minister for Tourism is in the House. As a result of that contribution, the number of competitors actually increased. They dipped down the year before but increased this year. The Townsville triathlon festival will go to the next level next year and become a world title event. We have the Townsville to Cairns bike ride. The other day I went and spoke to some kids who finished that.

From my point of view, I pledge to work with my council to support applications that come through local government grants and subsidies programs and other programs that have a strong health focus. This year I funded a contribution to expand the car park at the PCYC in order to get more people using that facility and a scoreboard and replay screen at the Tony Ireland Stadium.

I say to my council that if they have a good proposal in the area of health and fitness, the member for Thuringowa and I will back it. This is a title that we do not want to keep. There are many wonderful things about Townsville and we have many records that we are very proud of, including our wonderful way of life and our diverse economy, but this is one that we are embarrassed about. We will do all we can to shake it like a bad cold.