




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Kilcoy Country Companions Sensory Garden

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (9.12 pm): Tonight, I rise in this House to talk about the wonderful Kilcoy Country Companions Sensory Garden. On 2 October it was an absolute pleasure to attend the Kilcoy Country Companions with the honourable Minister for Health, Lawrence Springborg, to officially open the sensory garden. This garden was built to provide a safe, comfortable and peaceful environment for respite for the elderly, particularly for people with dementia. The garden was built in a beautiful circular configuration to enable these people to feel very comfortable and safe in their local environment.

I congratulate the locals of Kilcoy. This garden was built mainly through volunteer labour and funds. I also congratulate Marina from Kilcoy Country Companions, Robyn and John Vautin, who spent much time and effort working towards the garden, and also the great Prue Kendall, who worked very hard and made sure that we had the health minister there to help me open the garden.

Dementia is a very sad disease and, unfortunately, hits very close to home for my family. It was just so lovely to have been involved in the opening of this garden. The clients of Kilcoy Country Companions are often quite unsettled when they first go there for respite and, for them, being in this environment that is away from home is just so peaceful. The colours and the smells of this garden are simply incredible. It is a credit to all of those local businesses that provided the sand, the garden, the wood or the concrete for the paths all the way around the garden.

I would also like to reiterate that our government provided \$5 million towards research into dementia to, hopefully, one day find a cure for this terrible disease. It is locals such as the Kilcoy Country Companions and the local hospital auxiliary who work very hard and so tirelessly to provide a wonderful, caring, safe environment for not only people suffering from dementia but also their carers, who spend so much time with them. It is just wonderful for them to be able to put the people who they are caring for into a safe environment and take a bit of a break themselves. I would like to congratulate all the locals of Kilcoy and I look forward to going back and visiting again soon.