



Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**


**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Food Allergies

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.15 pm): Allergic disease, including food allergy, is a major public health issue that Australia and indeed Queensland needs to acknowledge. One in 10 infants aged 12 months now has a food allergy. The number has been increasing dramatically over the last 15-year period. Food allergy is something we never heard of during our childhood but we have no reason to doubt that it is real in 2013. Children and adults have lost their lives to anaphylaxis in this state and every state across Australia. These deaths are largely preventable. Timely, proper diagnosis and education on daily management of the condition is what decreases the number of deaths and the number of anaphylactic reactions appearing in our emergency departments. Death from anaphylaxis can be easily prevented but so many people and children have lost their lives because of inadequate education and support.

The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, ASCIA, the peak medical body, and the support organisation, Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia, are reaching out to governments and asking for allergy and immune diseases to be tabled as a prioritised chronic disease group and a National Health Priority Area to assist in raising awareness nationwide. Allergic diseases impact significantly on the quality of life of those who have the condition, as well as those who care for them. Whether you are managing persistent allergic rhinitis or life-threatening anaphylaxis, these conditions impact on everyday life. Increased awareness of these conditions and improved access to patient care is vital as these numbers continue to increase and impact our community. It is ridiculous that we have just one public paediatric allergy clinic. The bandaid approach does not work for anaphylaxis or any immune disease. Allergy and immune disease needs resources at every level. This is a public health issue and the Queensland government needs to make a difference. I also call on the government to acknowledge the seriousness of anaphylaxis and ensure that every school in Queensland has adrenaline pens readily available for students and teachers. Why are allergy diseases not acknowledged like asthma, diabetes, cancer and heart disease? As well as a national approach to improving the prevention and management of these conditions, more on allergy and immune diseases in Australia can be found at [www.allergy.org.au](http://www.allergy.org.au).