




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Lioness Club of Toowoomba City **KINGS**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.33 pm): Today I rise to talk about a service club in my electorate, the Lioness Club of Toowoomba City **KINGS**, which formed recently. My friend and colleague John McVeigh, the member for Toowoomba South, and I had the great privilege of going to the Paul Myatt community centre for its charter.

What makes this service club different is its background. In 2002, a lady named Lenore Howard wanted to provide a safe and happy environment for young people with disabilities to have fun with their friends. Out of that club grew the concept of a **KINGS** Lions Club. The first **KINGS** Lions Club was chartered in 2001 in Brisbane. Principally, it is a club where young people with disabilities can meet and interact.

What was special about the one being formed in Toowoomba was that 17 members were involved in the chartering of the club. What I think is particularly special is that the first thing they wanted to do once the club was chartered was work out what service programs they could offer to the community of Toowoomba North. Here you have a group of young people with disabilities facing hardship themselves and the first thing they want to do when they get together for a social gathering is work out how they might be able to help someone in the community less fortunate than themselves.

All of the people involved need recognition: the Lions Club **KINGS** coordinator, Lenore Howard; the president of the Toowoomba City Lions Club, Meryl Wright; the charter president of the Lioness Club **KINGS** in Toowoomba, Scott Tiran; and the district governor, Rob Craig. They have all put a great deal of effort into bringing this together.

I wish to read into the record the names of the young people in my electorate who John McVeigh and I had the privilege of watching go through their charter: Susan Arnold, Tania Ash, Beverley Bates, Garry Bates, Kimberley Duffin, Meghan Halliwell, Kellie Anne Hinds, Larissa Humphries, Tamira Leigh, Scott McKenzie, Michael Pratt, Jayme Reynolds, Natalie Sykes, Veronique Sukes-Nama Micah, Scott Tiran, Jim Wright and Meryl Wright. To them I say: you humble me absolutely by coming together and offering service to people in the community that I am proud to represent, Toowoomba North, and by going out and looking for people less fortunate than yourselves to whom you can provide services and charitable works.

It was a great privilege to be there with my friend and colleague John McVeigh. When we left there that day, we both had a full understanding of just how charitable people can be in many different circumstances. It is great to come from Toowoomba.