




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2014

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS CENTENARY, MOTION TO TAKE NOTE

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.40 am): I rise to express the opposition's support for the motion moved by the Premier acknowledging the achievements of the Red Cross in Queensland over the past century. The Red Cross has grown since it was founded on 13 August 1914, in the shadow of World War I. It has become an internationally recognised symbol of hope and humanity to many and brings aid and relief to people in need right across the world.

In Queensland, the mention of the Red Cross brings to mind blood banks, first-aid courses and, of course, a helping hand to those in need. Some may remember the contribution the Red Cross played in the wake of the South-East Asian tsunami, the Victorian bushfires and, of course, the devastation extreme weather caused in Queensland in 2011. In fact, during that horrendous summer the Red Cross assisted over 14,600 people in community recovery centres as flooding peaked. No-one in need was turned away. As Queensland faced one of its biggest challenges, the Red Cross was there. Mothers and fathers had somewhere to take their families, senior citizens had somewhere to feel supported by the community and those in dire need had a roof over their heads during such an overwhelming disaster.

Queenslanders will never forget that the Red Cross was there to help in their time of need and Queenslanders remain grateful for the hard work of Red Cross volunteers. We know Red Cross staff and volunteers are among the first to arrive and the last to leave. They are the ones on the front line, providing food, shelter and medical assistance to those in need, often in difficult or potentially dangerous circumstances. No matter the location or the seemingly impossible odds stacked against them, the ongoing legacy of Red Cross staff is the compassion they show to those in need.

The Australian Red Cross has become an important and much-relied-upon establishment in our community. Its achievements over the past 100 years are significant, helping countless people in times of hardship and devastation. I wish to congratulate and thank the individuals who have worked to grow this organisation during the past century, including the current executive director, Kevin Keeffe. To all Red Cross staff who are here today, I say thank you very much for your assistance and help. Your contribution to Queensland and Queenslanders will never be forgotten.