




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

Record of Proceedings, 3 April 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Charities

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (8.29 pm): I rise this evening to explain why I have a pile of empty milo tins stored in my office. Just like we do at my local Rotary club meetings, at each breakfast, lunch or dinner function that I host we pass around a milo tin and collect loose coins and spare notes in support of local charities and youth organisations. Over the past two years we have raised almost \$70,000 for local charities. Recently, we raised just over \$10,000 for Bravehearts and Musgrave Hill early childhood development unit. Penny O'Connor from the Musgrave Hill early childhood development unit came to see me at the start of this year about their desperate need for a new bus to transport children to various activities. The unit supports families with preschool age children with a disability and significant development challenges. Their current bus, which recently died, is almost 20 years old. The replacement cost of this bus is \$90,000 and so far they have raised \$31,000. With the generous support of my many colleagues and friends through the last milo tin appeal, we will be adding another \$6,000 to that total.

I am pleased, however, to report that last Sunday, in response to the *Sunday Mail* article that the member for Mackay mentioned, David McDonald, the CEO of Variety Club Queensland, contacted me and has offered to work with us to find the balance of funds required to purchase a new bus through their Sunshine Coaches program. I cannot wait to see the children who will benefit from the new bus when I next visit them. What a fantastic result!

I mentioned earlier that over the last two years we have raised more than \$70,000 through the Milo tins, and some of the causes that we have been able to help are: the Kids in Care Christmas Appeal; Parkwood Sharks Junior Rugby League; YHES House in Southport, Youth Health and Education Service; Bravehearts; Paradise Kids; Compassion Services; Gold Coast Stroke Support Group; and FSG, which supports children and adults with disabilities.

A government member interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: Yes, I believe the member for Mackay has done a bit in that area as well, but I am not sure.

On Tuesday I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the new FSG HUB in Southport, and I am so excited that this weekend I will have Vicki Batten, their CEO, speak to my Young Leaders mentoring program. Vicki is a great motivator and innovator. Her passion for the dignity of others and her focus on ability rather than disability is inspirational. I know she will really fire up my young leaders on Saturday. They are a phenomenal bunch of young people, and I was particularly proud of them last year when they responded to the Premier's Flood Appeal and raised \$14,000 through their own efforts for the people of Bundaberg.

Speaking of young people, I was pleased to have student leaders from Southport State High School here at parliament this week. The principal, Steve McLuckie, is doing an amazing job at the school and putting it on the map, and this year they have had record enrolments.