




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Get in the Game, Toowoomba Bowls Club

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (10.16 pm): I want to talk about the great funding that is available in my electorate through the Get in the Game funding that the sports minister has available. A seminar was recently held by the department to help people understand the funding and how it works and how they might apply. I was really pleased to find out that the Toowoomba Bowls Club is interested in looking at the funding and seeing if it can get an application together so it can encourage young people to join the bowls club. Toowoomba is very fortunate in that it has some great bowls clubs—West Toowoomba Bowls Club, Toowoomba City Bowls Club, which has a former member of this House on its committee, and North Toowoomba Bowls Club. I visited the Toowoomba Bowls Club and its great committee welcomed me: Janet Hark, the president; Deidre Ansell, the secretary; Margaret Pascoe; Margaret Podmore; and Ruth Edie. They were all there on the day that I visited and they let me have a go at bowls. It turns out that the greens might be just a little fast for me and I am actually not very good at bowls, but they advised me that with a bit of practice and a bit of training they could improve my game. The men's committee consisting of Dick Fowler and Terry Woods were also available on the day and were very interested in understanding how the grant works. We spoke about the potential of putting a package together so that we could encourage some of the schools on a Wednesday afternoon to get involved by bringing students down to learn and understand how to play the game. That is an opportunity for people to keep fit and get involved.

The club itself at the moment is doing it a little bit tougher than it would like. It has an ageing population. The club's green was first built at the turn of the century in 1900 and the second green was constructed in 1957. It has had many members over the years and it has provided great recreation for the people of Toowoomba, but at the moment it would like to see some youths get involved. In terms of the Get in the Game funding available and with some great schools like Toowoomba East just around the corner and other schools in the area, it is really encouraged to look at the funding, work out how it might be able to put some programs on that will suit some of the young people living in my electorate and introduce them to a sport that they may not have otherwise considered. It is interesting to note that at the Commonwealth Games 12 out of the 15 people on the bowls team were under 40 and a third of the team were under 30. When people think of bowls they think that maybe it is not a young person's game, whereas in reality some of the best competitors in Australia are actually quite young. I look forward to working with the Toowoomba Bowls Club to encourage young people to come and have a look at the game and get in the game with help from the funding of the minister.