




Speech By
Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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ADJOURNMENT

Redcliffe Electorate, Events

 **Ms D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (6.44 pm): It has been just over two weeks since I was sworn in as the member for Redcliffe. I promised my electorate that I would get out and about in my community as their representative, and I have been eagerly doing just that. Although Monday, 10 March was the first full week in my electorate office as the new member, with the great support of my new staff, we were able to re-open the Redcliffe electorate office on that day with people lining up at the door to get assistance and advice. I am pleased to say that I was able to meet with people in my first week, who were unable to get a single meeting with their previous member during the past two years.

There is no doubt that the current health crisis is concerning many within my electorate. I had the opportunity to hear directly from one of our senior medical officers about his concerns with the Newman government and their handling of the individual contracts—describing this government as bullies. I have listened to the fear of people who are heavily reliant on the services of the Queensland public health system if this government continues to push senior medical officers out of public hospitals. I have heard from people who have been left waiting for surgery well beyond the recommended waiting period, while they have to listen to the government brag about how great the surgical waiting lists are at Redcliffe Hospital. These are just some of the issues that people in the community of Redcliffe are wanting advocacy and answers on.

On a lighter note, I am pleased to say that once again I enjoyed joining the Redcliffe Environmental Forum and Clontarf Beach State High School students for Clean Up Australia Day. We collected much rubbish, including many shopping trolleys and car tyres, within the MacDonnell Reserve at Clontarf. Last weekend was also a busy time in Redcliffe with the Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise holding the inaugural 'Who's playing in the garden?', an event that brings together local, individual and group artists to entertain the young and old for a small cost. This event is held at the Redcliffe Botanical Gardens. This event was to raise funds for a new rescue boat for our hard-working Redcliffe Volunteer Coast Guard. Congratulations to Rotary Sunrise on a great event that I hope continues and expands in years to come.

In the brief time I have left, I congratulate everyone who got involved in Shave for a Cure. One extraordinary young boy Jay Barrett, a nine-year-old from Southern Cross Catholic College, shaved his head at his own great fundraising event held at the Belvedere Hotel at Woody Point. This is the fourth year that Jay has done this. Jay did this to raise funds but also to support his friend Elliot Marsh. Elliot has been diagnosed with lymphoma for a second time. I want to acknowledge Elliot and his family. Elliot is a very brave young man fighting an insidious disease. My thoughts are with Elliot while he takes on his biggest challenge, one I know he has had to fight before.

Of course, I know many others got involved in this great cause. I mention Mick George, a teacher at Scarborough State School, who also shaved for a cure. Well done to all those who got involved.