




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Redcliffe Pink Snapdragons Breast Cancer Dragon Boat Club

 **Ms D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (8.54 pm): I rise tonight to speak about one of the wonderful community groups in the electorate of Redcliffe, and that is the Redcliffe Pink Snapdragons Breast Cancer Dragon Boat Club. It is a club that is a support minded group that offers paddling opportunities to all breast cancer survivors and supporters.

The 'bosom buddies', both male and female, are their friends and supporters and help them in every way possible. They celebrate life together—paddling, eating and laughing a lot. They do not require any particular level of fitness or paddling experience to be involved in the club. They enjoy exercise in the fresh air, fun and camaraderie. Their aims are to promote breast cancer awareness and education; to demonstrate people can still lead a full and active life despite breast cancer; to show breast cancer does not discriminate on the basis of age or race; to be inclusive of all breast cancer survivors who wish to participate; to give a 'face' to and personalise the statistic; and to always encourage the search for a cure.

I just want to briefly mention the team's founder, Jayne Coe, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in September 2004, and during chemotherapy treatment her mother gave her a magazine article about Dragons Abreast Australia. Jayne loved the idea and, after the second chemotherapy session, she joined the Redcliffe Dragon Boat Racing Club and began paddling with them, as their first breast cancer survivor member. In May 2005, it was decided it was time to create a breast cancer survivor team as part of the club. Jayne chose the name 'Pink Snapdragons' for something pretty and feminine for herself and for future members to really feel like women. Pink snapdragon flowers, which are featured on their club banner, are also strong and long lasting.

It was wonderful to join them last week to help draw their raffle for their fundraising to go to the International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission Dragon Boat Festival in October, and it is being held in Sarasota in Florida in the United States. They are hoping to send a team of 22, plus supporters, to the regatta. Their raffle prize was actually a P&O cruise around the Whitsundays. I want to acknowledge Helloworld who helped provide that prize by giving the cruise at cost. I want to acknowledge the support of local businesses but acknowledge these wonderful ladies and their supporters who do so much to support women who have gone through breast cancer and who are still going through breast cancer. I congratulate them on the great work they do in our community.