




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Woodridge Electorate

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.16 am): Over the weekend of 30 and 31 May I was able to attend a number of community events in the Woodridge electorate. These included the Maori and Pacific Pasifika Walk for Health on Saturday morning where our community members banded together supported by the mighty Queensland Reds. This event was organised by The Good Start Program and the Pasifika Women's Alliance. I want to thank everyone involved in creating such a great event. Both of these organisations undertake vital work to help members of the Logan, Pacific Island and Maori communities to lead healthier lifestyles.

I was proud to announce that the department of health has decided to provide \$3.36 million for Good Start to continue their program and outstanding work for the next three years. The Good Start Program targets seven communities: Cook Islander, Fijian, Fijian Indian, Maori, Papua New Guinean, Samoan and Tongan. The program began in 2012 and has been highly successful in delivering culturally tailored initiatives developed with the direct involvement of Pacific Islander communities. Originally funded by the federal Labor government, funding for Good Start was cut by the Abbott coalition government in 2014. I am pleased that the Queensland Labor government will fund the continuation of the program until June 2018. Through active community health programs that both educate and work closely with the community, lifestyle changes are adopted, resulting in longer, happier and healthier lives.

On Sunday I had the pleasure of attending the Africa Day Festival at the new African House at Morningside along with my government colleagues the member for Bulimba, Di Farmer MP; the member for Ferny Grove, Mark Furner MP; and the member for Sunnybank, Peter Russo MP. This free community event was a wonderful celebration which showcased African art, music, food and performance. Woodridge has a large African community including African Queenslanders who have migrated from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Ethiopia and the Sudan. It was a day that brought together not just members of the African community, but people from a variety of different cultures to celebrate the breadth of the many African communities in Queensland. I would like to make special mention of Elijah Buol, my friend and president of the Queensland African Communities Council, and all members of the QACC executive who did an extraordinary job to create such a memorable experience.

Last Sunday I also represented the Premier and attended as the member for Woodridge the Logan Eco Action Festival, LEAF, which raises awareness of environmental issues in Logan City. This is the biggest environmental festival for the city of Logan, with a variety of live music, workshops, children's activities and eco businesses on display. There were a number of awards announced and I want to congratulate IKEA in the electorate of Woodridge and the mighty Substation33 on being

recognised as business environmental leaders in Logan. Substation33, a social enterprise operated by one of our amazing community organisations, YFS Ltd, opened its doors in January 2013 as an electronic waste recycling centre that also offers training and employment opportunities for residents of Woodridge, amongst others. I congratulate IKEA and Substation33 on their awards.