



Speech By  
**Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2015

## ADJOURNMENT

### Duman, Mr I; Samford Area Men's Shed

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (11.13 pm): On Saturday, 2 May I was fortunate to be invited to the official opening and third birthday of the Samford Area Men's Shed and to say a few words about men's sheds. The successful establishment of the shed was due to help from the Moreton Bay Regional Council, the Queensland state government and the local Samford community bank, Bendigo Bank. Like most openings of organisations, they are times to reflect on the journey and challenges at the start of a new era of a group. On this occasion I spoke of the importance of the amazing contribution men's sheds make throughout the country towards men's health. My initial exposure to men's sheds was through a senate inquiry into suicide in Australia as a prior member of the Senate Community Affairs Committee. One of the submitters providing expert evidence was the Australian Men's Shed Association. Men's sheds throughout the nation have grown from 350 as of 2010, since commencing in 1995, to around 1,000 presently. The evidence provided at the senate inquiry explained that males account for 80 per cent of deaths by suicide resulting from social isolation, lack of sense of purpose and poor self-esteem. Men's sheds provide support mechanisms to build social and support networks. Men's sheds provide for an environment where men learn more about their health and wellbeing, which has been proven in high-risk groups who seek support from traditional providers. The SAMS web page tells you jovially 'The lads gather to drink coffee and tell lies each week at the shed on Showgrounds Road, Samford', but I can tell members that they do so much for men at that shed and in the community. They do meaningful activities such as woodworking, metalworking, computer training, photography and community based activities et cetera.

Sadly, at the opening President Jim Liddle informed the crowd of the passing of former treasurer Inal Duman. Inal was tragically taken in a terrible accident in the area on 30 April 2015. Inal leaves his loving wife Sue, daughter, step-daughter and grandchildren. Listening to the eulogies at the service, he truly was an amazing man. He was a teacher, an accountant and an executive finance manager of the Queensland Cancer Foundation. He also could turn his hand to anything from computer hardware, building, welding, painting, cementing, music and dancing to name a few. Typical of some migrants, he could not quite grasp Aussie jokes. When told, 'We've hit a snag', he questioned, 'Why are we discussing sausages?' When asked, 'How are you going?', he said, 'I'll take the car.' He will be sadly missed by the community, all SAMS members and his family.