




Speech By
Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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ADJOURNMENT

Whiskey's Watch

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (11.14 pm): A few weeks ago, on Take Your Dog to Work Day, for the second time I had the privilege of meeting Scott and Liz Jackman, along with several handlers and their service dogs, in the shopping complex near my electorate office. As the morning went on, it was good to hear from those people about their experiences and their backgrounds, and watch them go through their paces, walking the dogs up ramps and stairways and throughout the shopping complex.

Scott Jackman, or Jacko as his mates call him, the founder of Whiskey's Wish, served with 8/9 RAR. Scott was deployed to both East Timor and Afghanistan where, in 2012, he sustained an injury. In 2013 he was medically discharged, being diagnosed with major depression, PTSD and debilitating back and neck injuries. After the death of his assistance dog, Whiskey, Scott was deeply devastated. In an effort to support and assist in Scott's rehabilitation, close family and friends gave Scott the encouragement he needed, knowing that he was more than able to help and support others through his experiences, knowledge and empathy.

A service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. All Whiskey's Wish service dogs are trained as assistance dogs. They are trained specifically to do tasks for their individual recipient, that is, if a recipient has mobility issues Whiskey's Wish will train the dog to handle their mobility requirements. Only dogs can be service animals; no other species has rights as service animals. Service dogs must be trained, under control, on leash and housebroken. They must be trained to do work or perform tasks that mitigate a disability.

When the service dogs are in public, there are certain expectations. Whiskey's Wish requires service dog etiquette and service dog manners, which are laid out. When you meet a person with a service dog, please remember that the dog is working. Do not do anything to interrupt the service dog while it is performing its tasks. Do speak to the handler first. Do not aim distracting or rude noises at the dog, such as whistling. Do not touch the service dog without asking for and receiving permission. Do not ask personal questions about the handler's disability or otherwise intrude on his or her privacy. There is a whole list of what to do and what not to do.

As a past chair of the federal defence subcommittee, I fully understand the good work that Whiskey's Wish is doing in our community, particularly for returned defence personnel suffering from PTSD. I will do anything within my ability to ensure that their organisation is successful in the future.