




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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GUIDE, HEARING AND ASSISTANCE DOGS AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (10.11 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Amendment Bill 2015. Recently I had the pleasure of meeting with some marvellous people and their canine friends. Along with puppy Jasmine and PR dog Barry, I caught up with Barb Tasker, the CEO of Guide Dogs Queensland. I appreciated Barb's time and her insights on how we can better support people in need of a guide, hearing or assistance dog. But, more importantly, I also met with Margaret MacAdam and her guide dog Bernie. Bernie is a beautiful dog and a wonderful friend to Margaret. Margaret is a stoic, proud and down-to-earth woman. It was a joy to meet her and hear her story. Margaret told me that, whilst in her experience discrimination against people with a guide, hearing or assistance dog is now almost non-existent, she sometimes still hears people say, 'No dogs allowed.' I would like to put on the record my thanks to Margaret for her time and her inspiration.

It is with that in mind that I am pleased to hear that this bill will contribute to improved access for people with guide, hearing or assistance dogs and be the basis for a greater awareness campaign in relation to their accessibility rights. On behalf of Margaret, her good friend Bernie and all people with a guide, hearing or assistance dog, thank you to the minister for bringing this bill to the parliament. This bill will make a difference in the lives of many people. I would also like to thank the committee for their efforts in respect of bringing this bill to the parliament. I commend the bill to the House.