




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Chant, Mrs I; Youngcare

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.53 pm): Recently, I had the privilege of attending the 105th birthday of Mrs Ivy Chant, a resident of the Ningana nursing home in Dalby. Ivy was surrounded by her loving family, friends and nursing staff as she celebrated this special occasion. When I looked around Ningana, I could understand why Ivy felt so happy there.

Unfortunately, that is not the case for the over 7,000 young people who are currently living in aged-care facilities, because the alternatives are few and far between. In 2005 the organisation Youngcare was formed out of the need for a young husband to place his wife, Shevaune, in full-time care when her multiple sclerosis worsened. In 2007 David Conry, with the help of friends and the support of business, government and the community, raised funds to open the first one-bedroom apartment facility at Sinnamon Park in Brisbane. Shevaune lived at that facility with 15 other residents until her passing in 2012 at the age of just 40.

Youngcare has now opened two more facilities in Brisbane and Coomera, with one due to open in Sydney in 2016. Griffith University and Youngcare have partnered to create best practice living spaces that are designed specifically for young people with brain injuries or degenerative diseases like multiple sclerosis and motor neurone disease. They have joined with big and small businesses to continue raising funds and have well-known ambassadors promoting the awareness of Youngcare and the service that it offers. This wonderful organisation is providing our young people in need of special care with a place to live independently and with dignity. The work that Youngcare does should be applauded and supported by us all.