



Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**


**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2015

## ADJOURNMENT

### BUSHkids

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (10.47 pm): I would like to give my adjournment speech tonight on BUSHkids. This year BUSHkids celebrates 80 years of providing free allied health services to rural, regional and remote children and their families. BUSHkids is a non-government, not-for-profit community organisation that was created in 1935 by the Governor of Queensland at the time, Sir Leslie Orme Wilson. His vision provided the framework for how BUSHkids functions in Queensland today. Without this foresight, the welfare and health of many rural, regional and remote children and their families could have been detrimentally impacted upon if they had not received the care that BUSHkids provides.

BUSHkids operates in six centres within Queensland, including one located in Dalby, comprising psychology, speech pathology, occupational therapy and family health support services for children and their families. These services are offered to rural, regional and remote children who may be experiencing behavioural, emotional or social development difficulties.

Support for parents and developmental programs are offered to assist families to understand and recognise problems that their children are experiencing whilst working in collaboration with allied health providers. I recently attended the centre in Dalby to meet with local allied health professionals, the CEO of BUSHkids, Charlton Meyn, and their clients. It was an enlightening and rewarding afternoon spent with several children and their families. The work that BUSHkids does is of great importance to rural, regional and remote communities and makes the lives of those who reside outside of large cities a lot easier. I witnessed firsthand the dedication shown by the allied health professionals who manage the Dalby service centre. The interaction between the children, families and staff was relaxed and comfortable, and the positive outcomes were easy to see.

I am very proud that BUSHkids is located in my electorate and I acknowledge the work that this centre does in the nearby towns of Miles, Chinchilla and Tara. Without organisations like BUSHkids, the future health of generations of people, especially children who live in the rural, regional and remote areas of Queensland, would be difficult. This organisation provides an invaluable service to many children and families who, without this service, would have to travel significant distances to larger centres that are unfamiliar to them. Offering these services in regional centres allows families to stay together and does not impact upon the education or social aspects of raising children in a stable environment.

I hope the next 80 years are just as successful for BUSHkids as were the first 80 years. I send my best wishes for the future. I wholeheartedly support the wonderful work that this organisation provides to the many children and their families who live in the rural, regional and remote parts of Queensland.