




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Chris' IGA, 60th Anniversary

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (1.19 am): One of the great privileges of being a politician is that you get to meet some extraordinary people and share some incredible stories. I would like to share one of those stories today by telling the House of the 60 years of a small family owned and operated business in my electorate of Chatsworth. In 1955, Chris Nicolaou, a young Greek migrant, settled in Carina whereby he and two business partners purchased a small general store for £3,000. In the mid-1950s, this was a significant investment decision and carried with it the essential feature of all small business decisions, an element of risk.

Indeed, effort for reward and taking a calculated business risk were the hallmark qualities of Chris Nicolaou and his family. After years of hard work and growing a loyal customer base, Chris bought out his business partners and brought his family on board. The family's capacity for sheer hard work and the tireless business hours they invested in the general store was well known throughout the Carina area. Chris' IGA, located in the heart of Chatsworth, has since flourished into an icon on Old Cleveland Road. In June, the store celebrated a significant milestone, 60 years of continuous operation. How many genuine small businesses can lay claim to fame of being in continual existence for 60 years? Not many, which makes the achievement of this wonderful small-business operation even more impressive.

Now, the next generation of the Nicolaou family is proudly carrying on Chris's initial legacy, led by his son, Nick. I have had the pleasure of knowing Nick since my school days at Carina State School. We grew up together in the Chatsworth electorate. I can attest to his strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit—characteristics imperative to the survival of Queensland's small business sector.

As I said in my maiden speech a few years ago, I can still remember when Chris's small convenience shop was the only supermarket around the Carina area long before Westfield Carindale opened in November 1979. Since 1955, the Nicolaou's store has grown from a small store into a thriving IGA supermarket and is now an important part of my electorate's business community. The business has continually given back to the local community and over the years has sponsored numerous Chatsworth sporting teams. Customer service has always been at the forefront of Chris' IGA reputation. In fact, my mother often mentioned that, when she received the home delivery of groceries back in the early 1970s, there was always in the bottom of one of the grocery bags a few Freddo Frogs to be found for the kids thrown in free of charge.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Nicolaou family for their generous spirit and the role they play in the local community, and congratulate my good friend Nick Nicolaou and his wonderful family on this fantastic small business milestone. I take this opportunity to wish Chris' IGA Carina a very happy 60th birthday.