



Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**


**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Beach Day Out**

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.23 pm): One in five Queenslanders has a disability of some kind. Disability Action Week is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on social inclusion and promote positive attitudes towards those with a disability. It is also a time to highlight access issues that hinder community members accessing premises, services and public spaces equitably. Beach Day Out at Emu Park does just that but in a way that is fun for everyone.

Beach Day Out is an all-abilities event held as part of Disability Action Week celebrations. It is a free, inclusive, family-friendly event that provides accessible activities that the whole community can participate in. This inclusive and fun event aims to celebrate the contribution those with a disability make to our community; enable opportunity for community awareness in an inclusive environment; educate, link, connect and build awareness for partners, agencies, private and public sector businesses, individuals, families and carers; and improve the health and wellbeing and highlight education and employment pathways for those people with a disability living, recreating and/or visiting the Central Queensland region. It is also about challenging how all Queenslanders think, about their attitudes and how their perceptions may prevent or limit the inclusion of people with a disability. In fact, this year's theme was 'Inclusion: it's a game changer', which aims to promote the inclusion of people with a disability in all levels of sport and the community.

Now in its fifth year, Beach Day Out brings together a number of inclusive and accessible activities that the whole community can participate in. In 2015 over 3,200 people attended Beach Day Out, and in 2016 almost 4,500 local people attended, with over 60 stallholders each providing an inclusive, accessible activity. While we might take a day at the beach for granted, it can be challenging for people with a disability, who face mobility issues as a barrier to accessing the beach, but at Beach Day Out everyone can get involved in beach sports, face painting, kite making and live music, both on the beach and in Bell Park. Beach matting leading to the sand and sea was rolled out, and there were also floating beach wheelchairs available for use under the watchful eyes of qualified lifesavers.

I congratulate the Beach Day Out organising committee including Ben Cooke, Nina Curtis-Gee and Emma Walls from the Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland; Jodie Lord from Spinal Life, a passionate woman with a steely determination to fight for equitable access; Sarah Owens, Ian Dare, Joyce Tinetti and Melissa Minter from Livingstone Shire Council; Michelle Roberts and Rebecca Smith from Smith Family; Michelle Broad from CQUniversity; Peter Smales from the department of communities; Josh Donovan, Paul Freeman and Lisa Eyles from the department of communities; Mary Wilson from Autism Queensland; Jenny Sweeney from Centacare; Debra Poots, Maxine Davies and Yvonne Davis from the Cerebral Palsy League; and Julie Irwin from the National Disability Coordination Officer Program, Community Solutions. I thank all of the volunteers, sponsors and supporters of yet another wonderful Beach Day Out.