




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 21 April 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Logan Community Hubs

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.02 am): Migrant and refugee families are some of the most marginalised and vulnerable people in our state. The electorate of Woodridge is one of the most diverse and multicultural in all of Australia and many vulnerable people and families live there. That is why I was delighted to announce that the Palaszczuk Labor government, through the Department of Health, will provide \$500,000 for the Logan Community Hubs program. The hubs work with migrant and refugee women and preschool children, offering services such as skills training, English classes, sewing and breakfast clubs, as well as volunteering opportunities and community events.

In Queensland, community hubs are delivered through a partnership between Access Community Services and the Scanlon Foundation, with Access Community Services delivering the service and the Scanlon Foundation backing them financially. I thank the Scanlon Foundation and Peter Scanlon, one of Australia's leading philanthropists, for their support. Currently there are five community hubs operating in Logan, and another one will open next week. Support from the Palaszczuk government will enable Access Community Services to improve front-line support services to migrant and refugee families. It will allow them to strengthen mental and physical health programs, including maternal and children's health.

I specifically mention some of the people from schools that have actively supported hubs in the electorate of Woodridge and nearby electorates. They include Garry Molloy, Pat Dore and Briony Hadfield from Woodridge State School; Muriel Collings, Elizabeth Hancock, Naomi Mills and Deanne Boddy from Woodridge North State School; Karen Brown, Lynne Kendall and Kerry Hirini from Mabel Park State School; Celestine Boundy, Jon Sorohan and Michelle Sorohan from St Pauls Catholic Primary School Woodridge; Patricia Kennedy, Rob Canning and Tammie Usher from St Francis College Crestmead; and Brad Roberts, Sam Symes and Marlo Bronsi from Regents Park State School. I would also like to thank Etienne Roux, Monica Rivas and Grainne Taia from Access Community Services.

Sometimes, language and cultural differences can mean that some people do not access services, even when they or their family members are desperately in need of help. Without programs like the Logan Community Hubs, there is a real risk that needy members of the community will not receive the support they need. We want our migrant and refugee families to feel as if they are an integral part of the Logan community, to feel welcomed, supported and fully included. Because of the focus and innovative thinking of organisations such as Access Community Services and the Scanlon Foundation, now partnered with government, community based programs such as this one are helping us do just that.