




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Woodridge Electorate

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.54 pm): I want to share with the House extracts from a letter I recently received from one of the students in year 6A at St Paul's Catholic Primary School in Woodridge. With the support of their teacher, Ms Katherine Anderson, all of the students in year 6A recently wrote to me before visiting Parliament House on Monday of this week. This young man's family moved from an African country to Australia and to Logan when he was four. His mother is still in Africa, but as he wrote, 'she is starving to death because they have barely no food to eat and no water to drink'. He said that when he left Africa—

We wanted to bring my sister along but she died at the age of 19. Our country is in war and more and more people die each day and no-one takes any notice. My recommendation is that we help these countries out of poverty and into happiness. It is our moral duty.

As I have said previously, the electorate of Woodridge is one of the most multicultural electorates in Australia. We have people from all around the world, many of whom have come to Australia seeking a better life and people who are prepared to work very hard to get ahead. Quite a few of them arrive in Australia broken and hurt. In many instances they have escaped horrific conditions in their home country. Unfortunately, the young man who wrote to me is not the only one in my electorate with similar circumstances. I was very pleased as a consequence to be able to open the Logan offices of the Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma on 22 April. For over 20 years now QPASTT has been helping new arrivals in Australia who have survived torture back in their home countries. They do extraordinary work, often under difficult circumstances.

In the same spirit I was delighted to be able to announce that the Palaszczuk government would be providing \$100,000 to support the establishment of a community mental health hub in Logan. Some migrants who settle in Logan have come from severe circumstances, as I have said, in their home country and some face ongoing mental health issues. However, mental health issues are not only confined to new migrants. The Logan mental health hub is being set up in partnership with Relationships Australia and the hub, in turn, will work with local community groups to identify and help those people whose mental health is at risk. This is an initiative led by the Queensland Mental Health Commission that I am pleased to support and I will watch closely. Mental health and wellbeing underpins the development of flourishing individuals, families and communities. Our government is very keen to support community organisations which are out there trying to help people live better lives.