




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Positive Mindset Creative Arts Festival; Thorne, Master S; Logan ENT

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.53 pm): Yesterday, hundreds of students from 16 schools across Brisbane's south-east, particularly from the cities of Logan and Redlands, descended on the Logan Entertainment Centre, in the electorate of Woodridge, for the second annual Positive Mindset Creative Arts Festival Grand Final. Held during Mental Health Week, the festival focussed on connecting young people and raising awareness about mental health and addiction issues through performance and artwork. The event was hugely successful in showcasing young talent and in opening up a dialogue between young people and their community about mental health and addiction issues. The day was a great success, with students showcasing the best of their creative talents to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health.

Participating schools included Carmel College, Browns Plains State School, Carinity College, Groves College, Marsden State High School, Mount Warren State Primary School, Ormiston State School, Springwood State High School, Loganlea State High School, Flagstone State Community College, Rochedale State High School, Loganlea State High School, Canterbury College, Chisholm Catholic College and Runcorn State High School. Thanks go to Metro South Hospital and Health Service for organising another fantastic festival.

I would also like to speak about the courage of a young man and his family. Samuel Thorne was a perfectly healthy nine-year-old boy who was struck down by acute myelitis. His immune system effectively attacked his nervous system and has left him a quadriplegic. Sam has been at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital since late last year. By his side every day have been his mum and dad, Jane and Craig, and his sister, Amelia, who live in Meadowbrook in the City of Logan. Their dedication to and love for their son and brother has kept them going through the past incredibly tough year.

Through it all, Sam has kept his sense of humour, enthusiasm, intellect and cheeky smile. He loves the Brisbane Broncos and his friends and family. Recently, Sam and his dad, Craig, visited me at my ministerial office. It was great to learn that soon Sam will return home. I wish him and his family all the best. I pay tribute to the outstanding care provided to Sam by the Logan Hospital and Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.

Finally, I pay tribute to the staff at the Logan ENT integrated specialist clinic, which is the first of its kind in Australia. This remarkable clinic, led by Dr Bernie Whitfield, has cut ENT long-wait times at Logan Hospital by 90 per cent in just eight months. Some of the outstanding staff who worked to achieve that result are Dr Bernard Whitfield, the director of ENT; Anne Coccetti, the director of speech pathology and audiology, and deputy director of allied health; Marnie Seabrook, advanced speech pathologist; and Sally Shilt, advanced audiologist. I thank all staff at the clinic and at the Logan Hospital for their outstanding work.