




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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ADJOURNMENT

Voice, Interests and Education of Women Clubs; Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (1.51 am): I rise tonight to inform honourable members of the important work being undertaken by the Voice, Interests and Education of Women Clubs of Queensland and Australia. VIEW is a leading women's volunteer organisation and support network that empowers women to have their voices heard on issues of importance for the future wellbeing of Australian society.

As a valued part of the Smith Family charity for more than 50 years, VIEW members contribute significantly by fundraising and offering volunteer support to help Australian children in need reach their full potential through education. It is the only women's organisation solely focused on supporting and advocating for young Australians in need.

Recently I was honoured to be invited to the Kenmore Evening VIEW Club meeting as their guest speaker. The Kenmore VIEW Club supports eight students and VIEW Clubs Australia-wide support over 1,100 students. VIEW Clubs have some 18,278 members representing over 350 clubs nationwide. This community network provides the opportunity for women from all walks of life to meet regularly. VIEW members are able to connect with each other, support each other and reach out into their wider communities with the aim of supporting Australian children in need.

VIEW members contribute by: firstly, reading with local children to advance their literacy skills; secondly, helping students with school work at their after-school learning clubs; thirdly, mentoring students taking part in their support programs; and, fourthly, making library bags and donating school stationery packs to disadvantaged students. As Australia's largest national education oriented charity, VIEW Clubs support disadvantaged Australian children to participate fully in their education, giving them the best chance of breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Their learning support and mentoring programs help children in need to fit in at school, assist with keeping them up with their peers, and building aspirations for a better future for these children.

VIEW Clubs began in 1960. Nearly 22,000 women of all ages, and from all walks of life, belong to VIEW. The Smith Family's general secretary at the time, George Forbes, with extraordinary vision, determined that if women were to regularly meet with other women, many family concerns that were exacerbated by social isolation would be eased. While the role of women has changed significantly since 1960, most women, regardless of their circumstances—be they single, married, retired, divorced, a parent, widowed, pursuing a career or working from, or in the home—need and value female friends. VIEW Clubs also cater for the many and varied interests of their members and some examples of their special interest groups include walking groups, book clubs and quilting and craft groups. May I commend the work they do to the House and propose that, as a matter of principle, we encourage and assist VIEW Clubs in any reasonable way possible.

In the time remaining, I acknowledge the successful Moggill Creek Catchment Group Kids Environment Day held last weekend and also the collaborative effort of all with respect to the recently held 4069 Local Business Expo. I would also like to thank the Queensland Intercultural Society and the generous hospitality of Murat and Ulviye Guzel at a recent Iftar dinner that my wife, Jane, and I attended last Friday night. The food was terrific, the company was very much enjoyed and we appreciated the opportunity to do that.