




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Melanoma

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.48 pm): 'I love a sunburnt country' are words immortalised by Dorothea Mackellar in descriptive prose associated with our wide brown land, our country Australia. However, each year in our sunburnt country 12,500 people are diagnosed with melanoma and 25 per cent of those diagnosed are Queenslanders. We certainly pay the price for living and working in our sunburnt country. As the mercury soared across Queensland I recently had the opportunity to be involved with the launch of a new sun-safe product known as Buck Off Melanoma sunscreen in the Burdekin electorate. The Buck Off Melanoma community group is spearheaded by one of my constituents—a passionate and determined Bowen mother, Jan Brown, who has focused on raising funds for the prevention and finding a cure for skin cancer which has touched her family and many—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock one moment. Members, I am having difficulty hearing the member for Burdekin. I ask you to leave the chamber quietly please.

Mr LAST: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Jan's son Chad was diagnosed with stage 4 inoperable melanoma. But instead of dwelling on that, Jan, along with her family and mates—a group of rough pro stock bull riders—are focusing on their mission to 'buck off melanoma'. On 19 March I will officially welcome visiting scientists from the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute at the Buck Off Melanoma sunscreen launch in Bowen, with a walk for a cure march the next morning.

Last year's march attracted 300 participants and raised \$20,000 for research into personalised cancer vaccines. Ultra Protect Sunscreens in Kawana has produced a specialist SPF 50 Buck Off Melanoma sunscreen, which Jan Brown hopes to market as an impulse purchase at supermarket check-outs around the country to promote how we really can 'buck' off melanomas.

Melanomas appear as a freckle or a mole that changes colour, size or shape and it is the most deadly form of skin cancer if not detected early. Melanoma is a curable disease but, tragically, it is the least screened cancer, resulting in 10 per cent to 12 per cent of people diagnosed dying. One dollar from every sale of Buck Off Melanoma sunscreen will go to the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute's Project P1514, a project run by Professor Nicolas Haywood and other national and international scientists who are all working together on groundbreaking research in immunotherapy—personalised cancer vaccines—that they are confident will one day make cancer a controlled chronic disease rather than a death sentence.

The first shipments of Buck Off Melanoma labelled sunscreen have been dispatched to locations in Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Western Australia, Tasmania and in the Burdekin electorate where local businesses and organisations like the Whitsunday Regional Council have placed orders.

As we all know, early detection saves lives. Jan has also been working to have mobile skin scan vans introduced to provide every Australian with access to regular professional skin cancer checks and the best chance of survival. I commend the work of Jan Brown and the Buck Off Melanoma Community Group for their inspiring work and their determination to make a difference. I encourage all members to promote and encourage all their constituents to 'buck off' melanoma.