



Speech By  
**David Janetzki**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Toowoomba Hospice**

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.51 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise tonight to speak of the wonderful work of the Toowoomba Hospice, an accredited healthcare facility that provides free palliative and end-of-life care based on mutual respect, trust and individual needs. Recently I visited the hospice to meet the staff and volunteers. It is important to note the vital role it plays in the fabric of the Toowoomba community.

The inspiration and driving force behind the Toowoomba Hospice was the late Sister Frances Flint. Sister Flint was inspired by medieval monks and nuns who cared for the sick and dying in special parts of their monasteries and abbeys called hospices. These institutions faded the longer the Middle Ages progressed but were reintroduced in the 19th century in cities such as New York, London and Sydney. Sister Flint was a woman of unwavering faith and fierce determination, with a clear vision for a hospice in Toowoomba that focused on the holistic care of people in the last months of their lives and the needs of the families that support them. Thankfully, she lived to see that her vision had been well and truly realised.

Built through the extraordinary generosity of the Toowoomba and Darling Downs community at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million, the Toowoomba Hospice provides six beds for people in the final stages of life. Construction commenced in July 2002 and the hospice officially opened in July 2003. Today the Toowoomba Hospice is a true local charity, employing 25 staff and engaging over 100 volunteers across a variety of tasks. It is a great supporter of local business, many of them small businesses, and in return they support the Toowoomba Hospice. The promotions and fundraising manager, Mark Munro, works tirelessly to promote the hospice's fundraising activities, including Hang Ya Boss Out to Dry, which involves putting your boss up in a crane where they are trapped until they have raised enough money to get down, and the infamous Trash Ya Hair for Hospice Care, which will commence next month and speaks for itself.

I pay tribute to chairman Graham Barron, who has been there from the beginning, the management team, the management committee and volunteers. Together through their varied efforts—nursing, pastoral, bookkeeping, administration, gardening and housekeeping—they provide a home-like atmosphere and meet a significant community need in caring for the terminally ill and their families and friends who love them so deeply.