



Speech By  
**Linus Power**


**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Logan West Meals on Wheels; Volunteerism**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.55 pm): Sharing a meal is more than getting nutrition. The volunteers at the Logan West Meals on Wheels know that the sharing of meals shows that we are a community, we care and we value those who cannot care for themselves as they once did. No doubt the student leadership team at Marist College Ashgrove and Mount St Michael's College, who are with the education minister in the gallery, know that as well.

Throughout our history, humans have gathered to share meals. I have been to a Jewish friend's home on a Friday night and shared a Shabbat meal. I have shared an Iftar meal with the Logan Muslim community, breaking the fast during Ramadan. At the church services that I attend with others, we symbolically share the bread and wine of a meal. At Christmas time, when we gather as a family, what do we do? We share a meal. The volunteers at the Logan West Meals on Wheels know that they deliver far more than sustenance; they share the spirit of community.

Some economists think that we are simply the sum of our commercial purchases, that we simply desire to accumulate more and more. These economists know the price of everything on the open market, but they know nothing of the value of community, of caring, of charity, or family. As a government, we need to know the limitations of this narrow form of economics. These cold, hard economists would not be able to explain the actions of volunteers, such as those whom I met at the annual general meeting of the Logan West Meals on Wheels. At that meeting, Treasurer Bev Wood read out a letter from one of the elderly people that they delivered meals for, which read, 'The volunteers are the most beautiful people ... they come into my home with the most beautiful bright smile and light up my home with warmth and sunshine.' Sometimes we focus too much on those things that we do not do right. We do not spend enough time recognising those people who do such great things, such as the President of the Logan West Meals on Wheels, Karen Grasmeder, Treasurer Bev Wood, and the many other volunteers.

If anyone who is listening to this speech has the time, including the students from Marist College Ashgrove and Mount St Michael's College, I say to them that it is worthwhile joining a great crew like Meals on Wheels. They can go to the [volunteeringqld.org.au](http://volunteeringqld.org.au) website and find a charity organisation that will light up the homes with sunshine near them. I know that other members respect the work that organisations such as the Donnybrook bowls club and the Golden Octopus Foundation do. They are organisations that can never be priced, but we know that they make an enormous contribution to our society. As members of this House, we should support them.