




Speech By
Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Ferny Grove Electorate, Fundraising Events

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (12.24 am): On Saturday, 30 April I had the pleasure of attending the Samford Leo Club English Rose High Tea event for the second year. The Samford high tea event raises funds for the Lions Medical Research Personality Quest Lions entrant, who on this occasion is Catherine Mason. Catherine started fundraising for medical research last year after going through chemotherapy and radiation treatment for cervical cancer. So far Catherine's cancer has been killed, but she is still suffering the after-effects of the treatment such as fatigue, menopause and internal burns. She is raising funds to help find more effective treatment and it also helps her to cope with the trauma that comes along with any major issue.

It was my pleasure to be there in attendance with the Labor candidate for Dickson, Linda Lavarch. Linda is an excellent candidate, and many people in this chamber would know her from her previous career here as an Attorney-General. I think she will be a formidable candidate for the seat of Dickson and a real challenge for the sitting member. It will be a fight down to the wire.

It was my pleasure to assist for the second year in raising funds. Just as I used to do when I was a senator in Canberra, I auctioned myself off with dinner for two. When I was in Canberra, I used to auction a dinner in the dining room at Parliament House; on this occasion it was dinner with the member for Ferny Grove in the Strangers' Dining Room. Last year we raised several hundred dollars and this year was the same. It is good to raise funds to assist things like medical research into cancer.

In addition, later this year I will be the patron at an event for the 10th year to raise funds for Cancer Council Queensland in their major fundraiser, Relay for Life. I am looking forward to that event later in the year. It will assist to raise valuable funds for medical research to make sure we find a cure one day. Slowly but surely, we are finding medical cures for cancer as we work through the process of diagnosing why and when those particular ailments hit the body. It is important that governments step up to the plate and make sure they fund that research. Sadly, that is not the case in terms of the current federal government. In many cases they have pulled back from the research into establishing why people continue to suffer from particular forms of cancer. One day I am sure we will get to a point where we are able to find the cure for the many cancers that attack our bodies.