




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (2.53 pm): This month is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and I join the Golden Octopus Foundation in asking for help. There are eight groups of insidious, heartbreaking childhood cancers that tragically claim the lives of three Australian children each week. Many more children die from complications arising from outdated treatments, diluted adult chemotherapies and the development of secondary cancers.

The Golden Octopus Foundation is doing a remarkable job in trying to make these traumatic journeys just that little bit more bearable. The foundation was set up last year by a group of parents who have been affected by childhood cancer. Initially, the idea was sparked by young cancer patient, Keely Johnson. She wanted to help other sick children, so she created the Golden Octopus Foundation, which is symbolised by Ollee the octopus, whose eight legs represent each group of childhood cancer.

I praise the work of this invaluable foundation and the hope and support that it brings to struggling families. The money raised by the foundation goes towards improving telehealth services and placing childhood cancer nurses in regional hospitals. Taking medical services to sick children means that they do not have to relocate or travel to receive treatment; they can stay with their families where they feel safe and comfortable.

Keely Johnson has a saying, 'Let's go gold, bright and bold, so our kids will all grow old.' The gold represents how precious children are and symbolises the strength and resilience that children develop when they are touched by childhood cancer. I would like to acknowledge all the work that the member for Thuringowa has done with the foundation. I thank all members who have worn the gold ribbon pin in parliament this week to honour and support these brave children and their families who are battling incredible hardship. The children experience unspeakable challenges and decisions on a daily basis that no-one should ever have to face in their lifetime. Members can visit the website, goldenoctopusfoundation.org.au, to make a donation or learn more about childhood cancer. Let us raise awareness and funds for those who matter the most.