



Speech By  
**Tony Perrett**


**MEMBER FOR GYMPIE**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 April 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Dickfos, Mr K; Cricket**

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.04 am): When it comes to cricket, Gympie local Kaden Dickfos is described as having the Midas touch. Mythological Greek King Midas was famous for being able to turn ordinary objects into gold, and that is one of the skills that Kaden brings to cricket every time he takes the field. That is a fitting description for such a talented all-rounder, as Gympie is proud of its association with all things gold.

At the beginning of this month Kaden was awarded Queensland Country Cricketer of the Year. In the 2015-16 season he won a premiership, he represented Queensland and he represented Australia. He was able to achieve this with the wonderful support of his family, especially his mother, Leanne; father, Lindsay; and siblings, Brent, Ebony and Taleah. As a cricket tragic myself, I was privileged to be among the crowd, including cricketing greats such as Usman Khawaja, Ian Healy and Joe Burns, that recognised Kaden's achievements as the best country cricketer in Queensland. As a co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Cricket, it was a great way to celebrate the talent that is found in regional areas.

More than 230,000 Queenslanders are now playing cricket. They are scattered throughout the 339 clubs that hold 1,554 matches each week. Across ovals throughout the state they include 24,560 junior players and 16,450 senior players who every weekend are seen wearing their team colours. Queensland cricket players are found in varied teams as members of junior teams, senior teams, senior players, indoor cricket teams, as Indigenous and female players, as young kids having a go and learning new skills, and in primary and secondary school cricket competitions. In the Wide Bay region, which includes the Gympie electorate, there are more than 11,000 participants, with more than 8,300 playing in schools. It is truly a remarkable and universal sport, as it can be played throughout all the regions of Queensland.

Cricket is still seen as the game families play on Christmas Day, at the beach or in the backyard. All you need is enthusiasm, a ball, a bat, some improvised wickets and it is game on. To me, the sound of summer is the sound of the first test on the radio, which means that summer has officially started. Cricket is about great memories and friendships. Growing up in Kingaroy, that summer sound included the distinctive voices of cricket commentators such as Richie Benaud, Bill Lawry, Tony Greig, Kerry O'Keefe and Alan McGilvray.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr PERRETT:** Absolutely. I have memories of playing with and against our neighbour Matt Hayden and his brother Gary, and of friendships formed with the parents of Australian women's cricketer Holly Ferling. With players such as Kaden Dickfos, I can only be excited about the future of cricket in this state, especially throughout regional Queensland.