



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Gladstone Electorate, Aged-Care Facilities

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.41 am): I rise tonight to speak of a living arrangement that none of us in this chamber has yet experienced, and that is leaving our family home to become a permanent resident in an aged-care facility. However, many of us have spent time visiting someone who lives in such an aged-care facility and I have recently visited two such places in the Gladstone electorate, Edenvale and New Auckland Place, which are both aged-care facilities that meet the level of care and safety that residents need. I took a cake to share with residents and was lucky enough to be at New Auckland Place last Friday during their happy hour so the coffee was swapped by many residents for a glass of wine or a beer, and I do admit that I opted to swap the coffee for an ice-cold beer with the residents.

It goes without saying that we should value all ages in our communities, from the very young to the very old. Having said that, I think that those of us who are able to visit residents in aged-care facilities should do so when we can. Many of them have outlived spouses and some have no family or visits from anyone and the visits from us are much appreciated. Obviously the level of care needed is not the same for every resident and I was able to spend quality time with many who were eager to share with me their personal stories from through the years. Many residents spoke of the fear of not being able to enter aged care close to family and friends and of the sheer relief when a bed became available in their home town.

At a time when people can no longer care for themselves, it is vitally important that sufficient aged-care placements are available within the community in which many of these people were born, educated, worked, married and raised their families. It follows that after they have paved the way for us surely it is not too much for them to hope and expect that they will be able to spend their twilight years in the same community should they wish. Both facilities are home to some of Gladstone's most well known pioneering names. One such pioneering name is Mr Reg Littlemore, grandfather to Gladstone mayor, Matt Burnett. Mr Littlemore is 104 later this year. He can still speak and hear as well as any of us.

I must also make reference to the dedication and skills of all staff at Edenvale and New Auckland Place. The respectful fun and banter between staff and residents, with no compromise to expert care and attention, was awesome to see. I left both places determining that, as one of a generation whose path was carved by those residing at those facilities, I will return and gather more of their personal stories as an educational curve for me and the Gladstone electorate.

Recently many people have raised concerns with me about retirement, aged-care and lifestyle options in my electorate. To this end I will be hosting a free information session in Gladstone on 18 April—my father's birthday—to provide updates where those attending will have the opportunity to hear directly from developers about what plans they have for aged care in the Gladstone area.