




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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ADJOURNMENT

Southport Electorate; Gold Coast Community Fund

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.13 am): I rise tonight to speak about the very busy week I had last week in my electorate of Southport. The rescheduling of this sitting week provided me with a bit of extra time so I was able to get out in the electorate and enjoy meeting many more of my constituents. Last week I held one of my quarterly new elector lunches at the Southport RSL. Just like other members, I have many people moving in and out of my electorate, and we had a number of new residents who were very excited to be joining us at the Southport RSL for lunch. Over lunch we discussed all sorts of topics, and it was particularly pleasing to hear a range of views around the table. I particularly want to thank Paul Burton and the team at the Southport RSL for their tremendous hospitality and the great work they do in the community. I absolutely enjoyed that occasion.

Last week it was also a great pleasure to attend the annual Gold Coast Community Fund breakfast. I note that the member for Gaven, Sid Cramp, and the member for Broadwater, Verity Barton, were also at the breakfast with me. The Gold Coast Community Fund does great work in assisting individuals and families who are experiencing financial hardship, and it also supports many local charities on the Gold Coast. It is pleasing to see that, in its almost 20th year, the fund has raised in excess of \$2 million through various art unions and other fundraising activities. The relief it provides may include assistance for people who are suffering from the effects of homelessness, sickness or a disability where there is, more often than not, a very desperate financial need. I particularly commend Rutland Smith, the chairman of the fund, and Simon Bennett and many of the other board members for their efforts in making the Gold Coast a more passionate place.

I particularly honour Steve Cavalier. He has not only served the community fund since it was first founded in 2000; he is the major franchisee at Harvey Norman and has donated some \$500,000 worth of appliances and goods as prizes over the years to support the activities of the community fund. I am pleased to say that I was there with Steve right back in the beginning when the fund was first formed. I was sitting in his office one day and he raised the prospect of doing something for the community. It has been a great journey to be on with him over these many, many years.