




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Southport Electorate, Community Groups

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (8.45 pm): It is with great pleasure that I speak tonight of some of the very dedicated community service groups in my electorate of Southport. FSG Australia has a 20-year history of providing equal opportunities throughout the community and for encouraging the freedom, social justice and growth of all people within society.

Following in the footsteps of CEO Ms Vicki Batten, staff and volunteers across FSG are encouraged to speak up about and transform landscapes through activism in the communities in which they work across Queensland and northern New South Wales. The culture of FSG in supporting and nurturing people to achieve their goals and dreams and to defend issues that affect their community is enviable in any support organisation, and their goal to transform the community is evident in every project they take on.

I was pleased earlier this year to support an application by FSG for their annual Justice in the Park event. I am looking forward to attending it this Saturday. The Justice in the Park festival brings the local community together to enjoy live music, cultural cuisine, interactive workshops, market stalls, guest speakers, a youth precinct, children's activities, an art exhibition and a whole lot more.

Also on this weekend in Southport, and joining forces with FSG's Justice in the Park, is the Walk Together For Freedom—for freedom to belong, freedom to be yourself, freedom to hope. Walk Together 2017 is organised by the Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast in partnership with the Gold Coast Multicultural Network, including the Multicultural Families Organisation, FSG Australia, Headspace Southport and Act for Kids. Again, I was happy to be able to provide support for this year's event, and I hope the weather holds out for both events, as one was washed out last weekend.

Last week I had the pleasure of meeting with Rosemary and her team at the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast. I would like to commend them on the amazing work they do every day. It was a great opportunity to hear about the not only excellent but vital services provided to women, children and families in need of assistance, and to have a constructive conversation about how we as a community can help fight domestic violence and strengthen the system to best support those in need.

The highlight of that visit was one woman on the team who came up to me and said, 'You don't remember me, do you?' and I must confess that I did not. She said, 'You met me 12 years ago. You delivered a fridge, a washing machine, furniture and appliances to my home when I was on the run and homeless and without anything for my family.' That lady and her daughter are both working for the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Prevention Centre. It was such a great honour to catch up with her after all those years and to see how her life has turned around. It was great to hear some of the truly incredible stories of survival and of women giving back to the centre and the community which had helped them in the past. I look forward to working with these groups in the future and to building a better Southport and a better Queensland.