




Speech By
Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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ADJOURNMENT

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (10.58 pm): Earlier today a Project Red Socks kit was delivered to each member's office. This kit is an initiative of the Rotary Club of Townsville Sunrise and is designed to serve as a reminder to all mature males to ensure they have an annual prostate check. Prostate checks can be as simple as a blood test where PSA levels can help early detection of this cancer, but I urge all males to talk with their GP to determine the best method for this testing. Mr Speaker, at the beginning of this sitting week you acknowledged that September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and I thank you for making each and every one of us aware of this and also for allowing me to distribute the Project Red Socks kits to all members. The risk of prostate cancer increases markedly for males over the age of 50 years.

More men die of prostate cancer than women die of breast cancer. Prostate cancer caused the death of at least 3,398 men in Australia in 2016. My father was one of those men. I would like to thank each and every one of those members in this House who showed me compassion during the time of my father's death. In particular, I would like to thank the member for Burdekin for his personal support at that time. The most sobering statistic is that one in seven males in Australia will get this dreaded cancer. Using those same statistics, nine members in this House tonight will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Members, look around in this chamber right now; you are looking at someone who will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. This also means that three women members in this chamber tonight will have their male partner diagnosed with prostate cancer.

By distributing these kits, I encourage all members to wear the Red Socks lapel badge and to ask as many members to wear the red socks in the chamber tomorrow to show their awareness of prostate cancer and the importance of this annual testing. If they are a little too shy to wear the socks, they can keep them front and centre of their sock drawer to remind them or their partner to test every year. I also encourage members to gather sometime tomorrow, take a photo of themselves and their mates wearing these red socks and then post their photos on Facebook. I encourage every mature male to wear their red socks and do their annual test with their GP because they could save the life of their father, their brother, their partner, their son or even themselves.