




Speech By
Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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ADJOURNMENT

Salvation Army

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (8.18 pm): As the member for Townsville, one of the highlights in my role has been announcing last year, on behalf of the health minister, Hon. Cameron Dick, a one-off grant of \$1 million to support the Salvation Army Townsville recovery service to deliver a drug and alcohol residential rehabilitation in Garbutt in my electorate. This grant complemented the \$4.6 million already raised from the local community to build this new facility.

Stage 1 of the centre supported 40 jobs during the 18-month construction phase and a further 15 full-time jobs in the centre during its operations. This centre is a win not only for those needing treatment but also for the local community as a whole. Such facilities ease the burden not only on our healthcare system but also on our judicial system and reduce the cost associated with loss of productivity, work absenteeism, hospitalisation and criminality.

Last Saturday I had the great privilege of attending the official opening of the Salvation Army's drug, alcohol and gambling addiction rehabilitation facility. This 52-bed residential facility will service North Queensland, reaching as far as the cape to the north, Mackay to the south and Mount Isa to the west.

While I was proud of the contribution I made in fighting for funding to support the construction of this facility, it pales against some of the enduring work that others have done in our community with this particular project. We heard from local businessman Graham Wheeler, whose shared vision was to build this facility some 20 years ago. Former member for Thuringowa Craig Wallace in his time as minister was able to secure the government owned site for the project. Local business owners like developers Laurence Lancini, Peter Tapiolas, George Colbran, David Carmichael and Peter Wheeler—just to name a few of the key movers and shakers behind the project—all contributed to building support from the Townsville community.

On National Mental Health Day today, it is important to recognise that this facility in Townsville is another move in the Palaszczuk government's war on ice addiction. Our Action on Ice draft plan addresses the use and harms caused by methamphetamines. We see and hear all too often the devastating effects methamphetamines have on individuals and families and the impact on front-line services like police, ambos, doctors and nurses. As Major David Twivey from the Salvation Army Townsville says, 'Addiction doesn't discriminate and every member of the community is affected by it directly or indirectly.' I congratulate the Premier and the health minister for their investment in this great facility.

(Time expired)