




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.01 pm): I rise to speak to the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. As other members of this House have already outlined, this bill, and ultimately the act, provides for the establishment and regulation of hospital foundations. We all know that those foundations help our hospital and health services—and, as a result, the public health system more broadly—by raising funds to improve facilities. They support education and training opportunities for staff. They fund research. They support and promote the health and wellbeing of communities.

The electorate of Glass House is well represented by the Sunshine Coast Health Foundation as well as the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation as part of the Brisbane Metro North Hospital and Health Service. I want to spend a moment reflecting on the spin-off from those foundations. These foundations started 35 years ago. Thirty-four years ago the Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital auxiliary commenced its operations. The Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital does not have a full-blown foundation. It comes under the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service and therefore the Sunshine Coast Hospital Foundation.

This incredibly formidable band of women have done incredible things for the Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital and for the broader Maleny community over the course of 34 years. I had the privilege of attending their AGM on 20 February this year. If we want something done in Maleny we give it to this group of women. They are very friendly, but they are formidable. They achieve so much. I want to acknowledge outgoing president, Val Bridger, and outgoing secretary, June Dunn. Both of them have done a stellar job over many years in their roles on the executive. In providing her report, Val listed some of the activities that the auxiliary got up to in the last year.

One of their primary fundraising activities is providing morning teas or catering for various activities. They held Fashion and Flowers at the Maleny showground hall. They catered for the Maleny Garden Club's Gardening on the Edge event. They catered for one of our significant fundraisers for men's health, Muscle on the Mountain. They helped out for the Maleny Garden Club's friendship luncheon. They held a hospital fete, albeit in appalling conditions as the rain pelted down in Maleny. They have had memorial afternoon teas as well. They have raised over \$17,000 in the past 12 months.

Val talks about the comradeship that comes from working together as a team to deliver this catering and deliver these fundraising opportunities. She goes on to talk about some of the highlights and some of the lowlights of the year. The 2016-17 year was certainly a challenging year for the auxiliary. In July 2016 they lost Glennis Manning, the former president, who passed away after a lengthy illness. She is sorely missed. On a brighter note, they continue to welcome more and more members to the auxiliary. As a result they are able to do more and more for the community.

To give members some indication of what they actually achieve I point out that for the year 2017 they raised over \$86,000 through catering and through donations from the broader community. As a result of that they were able to put more than \$75,000 worth of donations into the hospital during that year. That included the purchase of: three VersaCare beds; an ECG machine and trolley; a Cocoon

patient warmer; two resus trolleys for the emergency rooms; an ER storage trolley; a special patient chair; and a donation to the Delta Therapy Dogs program. Many of us know the benefits that those programs provide. On top of that they purchased catering equipment for the auxiliary, including coffee machines, tablecloths and various kitchen needs, to the value of \$2,000. All of that was done through their efforts as a group of wonderful women in our community.

I think the best way to acknowledge that great work is to read the comments of the Senior Medical Superintendent of Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Dr Ted Chamberlain, in responding to Val Bridger's report. He said—

... thanking all Members of the Auxiliary and expressing gratitude for the assistance given in so many ways. He commented that he was profoundly touched by all that Auxiliary members do. The Hospital exists because of its engagement with the community and assistance from Auxiliary members makes so much possible. He also commented that the word 'auxiliary' comes from the Latin 'auxilium' which means to support and encourage and that encompasses what the Auxiliary does. He expressed his gratitude to the Executive, and all members for the great work done, the money raised, and the support given to the Hospital and he hoped that the Hospital returned its gratitude.

As members would expect at an AGM, we had a bit of a changing of the guard. As I said, president, Val Bridger, and secretary, June Dunn, stood down. Val did not go far, though. She came back as vice president. The new president, Louise Hickey, whom I have known for many years in the Maleny community, has stepped up into the role of president. Paula Richardson has carried on as treasurer. Lily Reid continues on in her role as the secretary. I pay special thanks to Lily for providing a copy of the AGM minutes ahead of schedule so that I could incorporate some of it into my contribution today. The general committee members are Linda Costello, Barbara Purcell, Margaret Ingram and Judy Findlay. Together that group of women will lead the Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital auxiliary throughout the remainder of 2018.

I think all members in this House have reflected on the role that hospital foundations play in our broader health services and in the broader community. I reflect on the contribution made by the member for Caloundra when he was talking about the Caloundra Hospital. It is often the volunteers and the foundations and auxiliaries that go above and beyond.

I know that the Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital has found a particular niche within the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. It does a lot of work with stroke patients in terms of their rehabilitation. It has won a number of awards as a result. One of the biggest reasons they continue to provide such a fantastic service to stroke patients or general community members who require health assistance is because of the work of the ladies of the hospital auxiliary. I commend them for everything they do and may they long continue their service to the hospital and to the broader Maleny community.