



Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**


**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Rockhampton Country Music Concert Inc.**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.16 pm): Rockhampton Country Music Concert Inc. is a group of caring Rockhampton locals who hold monthly concerts in aid of all good things in my community. Recently, it tipped the scales in over \$50,000 in donations to various organisations in need in Rockhampton. I attended the concert held by the group at the QRI club in Rockhampton to take part in the group's milestone of donating over \$50,000 to 31 organisations in Rockhampton. The list of beneficiaries appears endless. The support that this group has provided extends across Meals on Wheels, Alzheimer's CQ, the Acute Stroke Unit, the SHINE program, the Oasis New Life Centre, the Rockhampton and Central Queensland Legacy Fund, the CQ Prostate Support and Awareness Group and many more groups.

Recently, I met with Ms Leonne Johnson, the secretary. She spoke about how this group of people started through their common interest of care, compassion and camaraderie and a great love of providing entertainment for others. On Sunday, 23 May 2010 the group met at the residence of Keith and Dawn Anderson to start a morning tea and concert group. This group quickly grew into a well-organised group coordinating monthly concerts at the QRI club for all to enjoy.

Ms Johnson said that, initially, the members donated money to buy sound equipment, tablecloths and other essential items to get started as well as registering their name and becoming incorporated and organising insurance. Mr Neville Johnson, who is now the president of Rockhampton Country Music Concert Inc., said that they donate up to \$1,000 to each organisation that seeks help from them from the funds that are raised at their concerts. He said further that it was such a great pleasure to help others. About 150 to 180 people regularly attend their concerts.

Rockhampton Country Music Concert Inc. has also assisted other organisations, such as the Salvation Army, Camp Quality, the Rockhampton and District Blind Club, the RACQ helicopter service Angel Flight, community radio, horseriding for the disabled and the Rockhampton cancer and palliative care service. It is an absolute pleasure to visit this group and I congratulate all involved. Well done.