




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 18 October 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Bloomhill Cancer Care; Newton, Mrs J, OAM

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (6.12 pm): I rise today to speak about the incredible charity in my electorate known as Bloomhill Cancer Care. Bloomhill began 21 years ago with a mission to enhance the quality of life of cancer sufferers and survivors. Currently, Bloomhill's 50 staff and 500 volunteers support over 1,200 clients by providing practical, physical and emotional support from the time of diagnosis all the way through their journey. Everybody there has been touched by cancer in some way, either directly or indirectly. Having lost my mother to cancer, I am passionate about ensuring that loved ones are respected and nurtured all of their days, especially when they lack the strength and energy to fight for themselves. I am acutely aware of the impact that cancer has on families and entire communities, and on behalf of the Buderim electorate I congratulate and thank Bloomhill for providing a safe and supportive environment for those who have never felt more alone or frightened in their life.

In 2012 a federal government grant of \$560,000 funded a small expansion, but it could not stretch to upgrade the original 10-person capacity septic system, which is impaired by toxic chemicals including chemotherapeutic substances. These pose significant health risks. Recently, Bloomhill received a \$35,000 Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant, which will cover roughly half of the funds required to upgrade and relocate the holding tank so it can be emptied on a weekly basis via mechanical extraction. To link the system with the main sewerage system of the Sunshine Coast council will cost a further \$200,000. Bloomhill has a blueprint model of cancer care, and the rest of Australia is watching. In fact, the model is being replicated in Cairns.

Sadly, as a direct result of its success Bloomhill faces an increasing demand for their services and is once again rattling the tin to fund the Bloomhill wellness centre expansion project. This project will extend their capacity to 2,000 people by 2020. Bloomhill is achieving tangible, positive health outcomes for the Sunshine Coast. I call on the government to support and recognise the cost benefit that Bloomhill is providing and assist Bloomhill in remaining viable so they can support the health of the Sunshine Coast community.

Before I finish, I would like to take a moment to recognise the tremendous contribution of Joyce Newton OAM. The member for Glass House spoke eloquently about Joyce on Tuesday and I will not duplicate his contribution, but I wanted to place on the record my condolences and those of my family. No-one will forget Joyce's contribution to her community and to Queensland more broadly. Joyce, you will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with Greg and the rest of the family at this difficult time. Rest in peace.