




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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ADJOURNMENT

Greater Springfield Regional Connect

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.28 pm): It was my pleasure to recently launch and co-host the first ever community support services forum for the Greater Springfield region within my electorate of Jordan. Greater Springfield Regional Connect brought together key government agencies including health, communities and police, along with community support organisations, notable charities and local school principals.

One of the key issues that I have identified early as the state member is, whilst there are a number of key government agencies and community support services operating in Greater Springfield, many are doing great work in isolation of each other. It is also clear to me that the local community does not necessarily always know what community support services are currently available within our region.

The purpose of the Greater Springfield Regional Connect is to better understand the needs and working of the Greater Springfield community through identifying organisations, building connections and forming collaborations. The idea for this was inspired following a discussion that I had as a candidate with the wonderful staff who operate the YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre—Bec Andlemac and Ellie Lloyd. They have different community support services accessing their centre and, whilst they knew that a lot was happening within the region, it seemed to lack coordination.

As a candidate, I also doorknocked a lot of homes in Greater Springfield. It is a truly wonderful community, but there are people out there doing it tough—I see it, our community services sector sees it, our schools see it and our charities certainly see it. I pledged that, if elected, I would work in collaboration with the community centre to start up this forum, with a very simple premise: first, raising an awareness of who was servicing Greater Springfield; second, bringing those groups together to see where the natural collaborations are and what we can be doing better; and, third, identifying the gaps—what is not happening in the region and who could be providing that service.

Our first Greater Springfield Regional Connect forum brought together 40 participants and was a great success. I was buoyed by the incredible energy in the room, the desire to work together and, most importantly, the collaborations and connections that are already forming. Funding is a critical issue for these organisations, and where we as a government can lock in longer term funding to give existing service providers and their workforce the certainty and stability they need to continue to deliver vital support services is important. A recent example of this is the five-year funding contracts for those working in the homelessness sector through the Queensland government's Partnering for Impact initiative.

From our participants on the day, we know that we have barely touched the surface. By 2030, there will be 138,000 living in Greater Springfield. Currently, there are close to 36,000. My role as the member is simple: I want more—more for Greater Springfield in the way of services and more for Greater Springfield in the way of social infrastructure. Most importantly, I want more for our young people growing up in the region no matter what their economic or social circumstances are. I strongly believe through the work of Greater Springfield Regional Connect that we can do this and so much more.