




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

Mount Gravatt Community Centre

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.10 pm): I rise tonight to inform the House of the work performed by the Mount Gravatt Community Centre. The centre is located on Logan Road, Mount Gravatt, within the electorate of Mansfield, although the area the centre services is more than 40 suburbs of Brisbane's south side.

The centre began operating more than 25 years ago, with a largely volunteer staff. The driving force behind the centre was dynamic social worker Bernadette Dawson, known as Bernie, and the then newly elected Labor member for Mount Gravatt, Judy Spence. Today the centre offers a range of outreach services to the community, particularly to frail, aged community members and those with a disability through the Commonwealth Home Support Program, Queensland Community Care and Home Assist Secure. Mount Gravatt Community Centre, through its first contact team, maintenance and modification teams and almost 60 contractors, assist vulnerable community members to live safely and securely in their own homes.

Community members are able to access a range of services provided at the centre through the Neighbourhood Centre Program. Last year almost 1,300 food parcels were distributed by volunteers to those in need. Clients can also access free tax help, no interest loans for the purchase of whitegoods, counselling and wellbeing programs. The seniors social group, Paint Pals, and the ukulele groups are just some of the more than 30 social groups that meet at the centre every month. In 2014 the centre negotiated the purchase of the adjoining property and refurbished it as a community asset.

The building named Bernie's Place after Bernie Dawson has become a valuable community meeting place. Bernie's Place was officially opened by the Hon. Judy Spence, a life member of the centre.

The incredible work performed by the Mount Gravatt Community Centre is a result of a hardworking and dedicated team of paid staff led by Centre Manager, Deb Crompton; Community Engagement Coordinator, Denise Foley; and Maintenance Coordinator, Lisa Stanhope. Mention should also be made of the contribution of the long-serving president of the board of the Mount Gravatt Community Centre, Ian Lang—a true Mansfield community champion. The centre is now ably led by president Toni McDonald.

Organisations such as this centre provide a vital service to those in need in our community. I am proud to say that it has been through the policies of successive Queensland Labor governments that the much needed funding has been and will continue to be provided to community organisations like the Mount Gravatt Community Centre so that their important work can continue.