



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2018

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Gladstone Electorate, Grants**

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.52 pm): I rise this afternoon to talk about the importance of grants to the local sporting clubs and not-for-profit associations in my community. Raising crucial funds needed to upgrade fields, update and maintain clubhouse facilities, replace or install lighting and solar panels, build new storage sheds, purchase a ride-on mower, tractor or sporting equipment is a constant battle for many clubs in my electorate.

The city of Gladstone is doing it very tough. Gone are the days in my electorate where one could go up to one of the big businesses and ask them for funds to help provide critical items that these clubs in Gladstone use. Gone are the days of getting those big bucks. The clubs now have to go to other measures.

Since being the state member for Gladstone, the electorate has been delivered \$7.966 million in state government grants to local not-for-profit groups under the Palaszczuk government. Our clubs create a sense of belonging and connectedness within the community and supporting those organisations is one of the most important ways to grow and nurture harmony and community spirit. I am always excited to make a phone call to the tennis club or the Orchid and Foliage Society to tell them they have been successful with one of these grants. Whether it be for big bucks of \$100,000 or smaller amounts of \$5,000, it makes all the difference to these clubs. The excitement in their voices as I talk to them is honestly one of the best parts of my job.

In the Gladstone electorate we are very fortunate to also have grants from our local industry partners including Rio Tinto, QAL, Gladstone Ports Corporation, Santos GLNG, Orica, QGC and Conoco Phillips. They also play a huge part in helping our community and our not-for-profit organisations get funding for equipment they need.

I recently hosted a grant writing workshop, which gives attendees a chance to gather information from the various grant providers and also to learn about what makes a good application. With over 80 people in attendance, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Many tips and tricks were shared. I look forward to a successful year of grants to come. Thanks must go to Lyndal Hanson for conducting the writing workshop.

I would like to give a special mention to the volunteers who keep these organisations afloat. These are people who often have other jobs, families and various commitments, yet they give up their time in the evenings and on the weekends to take the minutes, to look after the fields, to apply for grants or to host special events in my community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of those groups and those people for the contribution they make to my community of Gladstone.