




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 20 March 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Clayton, Miss S; Stroke

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.09 pm): I rise this evening to speak about an extraordinary young woman in my electorate, Sophie Clayton. I met Sophie when I was doorknocking last year in my electorate one Sunday morning. I knew immediately that I would be hearing from her again. She was a young woman determined to make a difference in the world. I was delighted to be proven right when I reached out to her earlier this year to catch up. Sophie attends the wonderful school St Aidan's in my electorate, in the suburb of Corinda. It is just one of the amazing schools in my electorate leading the charge against cyberbullying.

Sophie sits on her school's antibullying task force. During the last sitting of parliament she visited the Minister for Women's event in the Premier's Hall, and I thank the minister for organising that wonderful event. Being the assertive young lady that she is, Sophie made a beeline straight for the Premier to discuss the initiatives her school committee is undertaking. The Premier requested that Sophie write to her about the initiatives her team is working on. Sophie was quick to agree and I know that this wonderful young lady will be eagerly following the progress of our work in this space. It was clear that the Premier was as impressed by Sophie as I was—and with good reason.

Why is this young woman so very remarkable? Sophie had a stroke when she was just four years old. Since this time she has been passionate about raising awareness of stroke. Sophie's message to the community has always been simple: stroke can happen to anyone at any time and it can happen to kids, too. Each of us should remember that when it comes to stroke and stroke awareness, there is one hard and FAST rule, that is: face, arm and speech time. Is someone's face drooping? Can they lift their arms? Is their speech slow or slurred? As Sophie says so often, knowing these signs and the FAST rule can save time and save lives. I encourage everyone in the House today to ensure they know for themselves and their loved ones the signs of stroke.

Sophie is instrumental in coordinating a fantastic Facebook page, 'Stroke kids'. Please go and give it a like. It is a wonderful page that features fun and innovative recovery techniques for kids. Its very existence is a tribute to Sophie's tenacity and drive to ensure people know the signs of stroke.

It would be remiss of me not to pay tribute at this time to Sophie's family, particularly her amazing mum, Amanda. Amanda has been very careful to ensure Sophie's story was told by Sophie in Sophie's words when she was ready. It was clear to me when Sophie met the Premier that she was ready, and I know her advocacy will only grow as she does. Sophie, I stand ready to assist you in whatever way I can and I am proud to be your local member. Maybe one day you will be mine.