



Speech By  
**Kim Richards**


**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Redlands Electorate, Coffee with a Cop**

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.09 pm): Like my good friend the member for Thuringowa, I rise to talk about policing and community safety.

**Mr Harper:** You're not a bad member, yourself.

**Ms RICHARDS:** Thank you. I want to report on the growing success of Coffee with a Cop events that have been occurring throughout the Redlands for a number of years. Those events have proven to be an effective way for our police officers to meet locals in a relaxed and safe environment. What many people do not know is that Redlands was the birthplace of Coffee with a Cop.

The idea of Coffee with a Cop was first introduced in Queensland in 2014, with the aim of breaking down barriers between police officers and members of the public. It was founded in the Redlands by Senior Constable Sam Schofield and Administration Officer Pauline Dunn of the Capalaba police beat. It was established to create an opportunity for community discussion and an understanding of local issues. It provides a chance to build healthy relationships between our police force and the community. Coffee with a Cop has encouraged important conversations with people who may have been hesitant to attend a police station but still want the opportunity to talk with our police. Who would have thought a simple cup of coffee could be so powerful?

These events have allowed police a better insight into community concerns and an opportunity to build stronger connections with locals. This sends an important message that anyone can approach our police officers for support and guidance. Coffee with a Cop reminds locals about how they can assist and play their part in community safety. It was wonderful to also have the presence of Crime Stoppers and Volunteers in Policing, who do a really incredible job in our community. Ridding our community of crime is a group effort and this program opens the door to safe discussions and, in turn, promotes positive attitudes towards our police.

I congratulate Constable Chris Hebblewaite on the successful use of Coffee with a Cop in the Redlands as part of Road Safety Awareness Week. He has put in a huge amount of work to bring together Volunteers in Policing, Crime Stoppers and the Road Policing Unit. On the day, the children had a fantastic time checking out the motorcycles and the sirens. They had a really good time. It was a wonderful opportunity to provide essential road safety information. It is really important that we keep reinforcing the message that to have safer roads people have to play their part.

I am proud to report that two other Coffee with a Cop events have been hugely successful on Coochiemudlo Island and Macleay Island. Our island police officers are working really hard. There are two officers on each island. I also give a shout out to Tim and Eddie on Russell Island and to Carolyn and Dave on Macleay Island. They do a fantastic job.

I am about to conduct some community safety forums with the assistance of Deputy Mayor Lance Hewlett. We are hosting them on Coochiemudlo Island and at Victoria Point. It is fantastic that the Queensland police are again supporting this event, with Volunteers in Policing, Crime Stoppers and council compliance officers. Again the community will get a chance to engage and talk about the issues that matter most to them and to think about what crime prevention looks like.

*(Time expired)*