



Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 November 2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

**JPs in the Community; Ashmore Men's Shed**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.05 pm): I rise this evening to speak about two excellent community programs in my electorate of Southport. The first is the JPs in the Community program at Australia Fair Shopping Centre in Southport. The JPs in the Community program gives the public consistent and easy access to witnessing services throughout Queensland at a variety of different locations. At Australia Fair the program is run by Karina Page and her dedicated team of volunteers in an office suite kindly provided by centre management at Australia Fair. The service is run solely with volunteers who work in shifts of two and it operates for 41 hours a week across six days. It was volunteer Ken Cowan who approached me at one of my recent mobile offices to tell me more about the service.

Last week I had the opportunity to visit Karina and her busy team to see the service they provide to our community firsthand. Karina told me that in September their site serviced more than 2,000 individuals, making it the busiest site on the Gold Coast. It is appropriate that the Attorney-General is here in the chamber tonight because they have asked me to place a special request for more volunteer shirts, pens, stamp pads and ink because they constantly have trouble getting enough to keep up with demand. I am on the record now. I can say that I have asked the Attorney-General personally for that favour. With an active roster of around 30 volunteers, I am told that the pens run out within a few days, or they disappear within a few days, and, sadly, some of their volunteers are still waiting for shirts. I would like to place in *Hansard* my gratitude for the service they provide to our local community and congratulate Karina and her team on their dedication to continuing the operation of the JPs in the Community at Australia Fair.

I would also like to talk about the recent opening of the Ashmore Men's Shed. As many members would know, men's sheds provide a safe and friendly environment for men to talk about their mental health and enjoy some easygoing company. The Ashmore Men's Shed is a project of the Ashmore Rotary Club with support from the Southport Rotary Club and was formed as a result of a public interest meeting held by both Rotary clubs on 15 July 2017.

After over a year of activity, the Ashmore Men's Shed, located on Currumburra Road, Ashmore, was officially opened on Saturday, 3 November 2018. The shed was also recently awarded a Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant of \$35,000 for the installation of a dust extraction system. I want to congratulate Rock O'Keefe, the chairman of the Ashmore Men's Shed Committee—yes, that is his name—and the rest of his committee, as well as the committees of Ashmore Rotary Club and Southport Rotary Club for all of the hard work they have put into making the Ashmore Men's Shed a reality. The new facilities are incredible, and I have every confidence that their efforts will be rewarded and every confidence that the activities of the shed will be nothing but a success.