




Speech By
Samuel O'Connor

MEMBER FOR BONNEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Bonney Electorate

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (7.51 pm): In my limited time, I would like to fit in a few local shout outs from the last couple of weeks. Today every member received a pin that looks quite like a donut for 'Australia Says No More'. One of their campaigners Barbara is from my electorate. She is working hard to create cultural change to put an end to sexual assault and domestic violence and I am proud to support her. I thank all other members of this House who wore their pins today.

Tomorrow we are each going to receive a pin from Radio Lollipop to acknowledge the work they do and to acknowledge Radio Lollipop Day last week. I got to go along to the Gold Coast University Hospital and hear the radio broadcast to the entire hospital to help raise awareness of the amazing service that the volunteers do there for our sick kids. Well done to Tani Stubbs and Michael Gilbert on a fantastic day.

While I was at the hospital I also popped in to the incredible ArtBeat Festival. It was made possible by music therapist Maddie Bridgland and her hardworking team. Sam Hall and the Rotary Club of Griffith Gold Coast were on hand as well as our now decade old Southport headspace and many of our other fantastic local service providers in the mental health area. Maddie's mum also let me try on her pug pack which was a head-turning accessory, to say the least.

Last Saturday I was honoured to be a guest at the Navaratri Festival celebrating Hindu culture. Thank you to president Kartik Menon, past president Sothi and my good friend and local Griffith University academic Muthu for having me. The Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association enrich our community and are an important part of our diversity.

On Friday I also supported Southport Special School's fun run, which was held in pretty much the only dry few hours we have had on the Gold Coast in the last week. To see all the kids running around and celebrating together in the Broadwater Parklands was great. A special shout out to all the teachers and parents who gave their time on the day, as well as what they do for our kids throughout the year. In particular I thank P&C president Cameron, Thea, Shelley, Kirsty and the Ashmore Lions for helping me on the barbecue.

We also recently celebrated International Tenants Day with Dan Bastick from QSTARS and his great team. In Bonney over 46 per cent of people are renters and International Tenants Day was a chance to celebrate them, as well as to hear about the issues they face as tenants and to make sure they are as informed as possible.

We also had a Speech Without Borders discussion. I congratulate Jack Hood who set up this group with his fellow students at Griffith University to engage young people in politics, no matter what side they fall on.

Finally, I note the fantastic work by another student at Griffith, Brittany Higgins, in petitioning to get agreement to allow political activity on campus, which is something that has been banned up until this point. Brittany worked very hard to get that approved so congratulations Brittany.