




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Record of Proceedings, 16 May 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Traditional Shotokan Karate-do Federation

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (7.19 pm): I would like to highlight a terrific organisation led by amazing people, the karate family that is TSKF, the Traditional Shotokan Karate-do Federation. With traditional dojos all over Australia, New Zealand and worldwide, their contribution to our communities is immense and significant.

Having the great honour and privilege to be honorary president for TSKF Australia, I am consistently inspired and overwhelmed by what simply building a karate family based on friendship, dedication and discipline can achieve. I am particularly impressed by the youth, whose dedication and hard work produce a culture of respect, lifelong commitment and especially respect for authority.

That mutual respect stems from early traditions of chief instructor, Takahashi Shihan OAM, 9th Dan. Mr Takahashi has dedicated the last 46 years visiting our country twice yearly, visiting each and every dojo for grading and training. In 2003 Takahashi Shihan's commitment was acknowledged by the Australian government when he was awarded an Order of Australia Medal by John Howard for services to sport and culture. This was a proud moment for not only Shihan but also his devoted family and the entire TSKF association. Mr Takahashi needs to be acknowledged. The lives he has forged, and the legacy of sport and fitness of mind and body of thousands of Australians is truly remarkable.

I recently attended the eight annual national championships to again witness the excitement and intense competition and also to meet the remarkable and talented Japanese students from Aoyama University who bring their respectful way, their Japanese culture and their dedication to enhance the training and development of students right across Australia. As TSKF Australia moves into another exciting phase of development, we welcome highly respected assistant instructors who will continue the Japanese tradition of visiting every dojo twice yearly.

The nationals this year saw success for both the Childers and Bundaberg clubs. We could not be prouder of their efforts. To tournament director, chairman of TSKF Australia and Childers sensei, John Russo, thank you for your commitment and years of service and to his lovely wife, Debbie Russo, his tireless partner and secretary who gives so much, please accept our gratitude. We meet wonderful people in life and a nicer couple I could not hope to meet is Sensei Alex and Rhonda Fedotow from the Bundaberg dojo. Congratulations on your ongoing success with the youth of our community.

Finally, a special mention to all the participants and winners of the finals: Brooke Fitzgibbon from Childers who won both the black belt for girls 16 to 18 years kata and kumite; and Mitchell Parnell from Bundaberg who won the black belt boys 16 to 18 years kata and kumite. We thank the TSKF family for all they do in our community. We want to make sure that we continue to support these great sporting organisations as they give so much to our communities.