



Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**


**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Carindale Cougars**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.11 pm): It gives me a great sense of pride today to congratulate my local Junior Australian Football Club, the mighty Carindale Cougars. The club has been awarded for its fantastic results on and off the field this year, with the honours of Brisbane Lions Community Club of the Year and club president Evan Marshall recognised as AFL Queensland's Club Administrator of the Year. I could not think of a more deserving club for these awards.

For a small community sporting club, the mighty Cougars punch well above their weight. Just recently the club held an impressive fundraiser to assist people suffering with motor neurone disease, raising \$4,500. This in itself is an incredible effort. It is one thing to fundraise for your own club benefit, but it blows me away that this club always goes above and beyond to help out others in the Chatsworth community.

I am so pleased that this club has been recognised for its astounding success. This being said, this success is like the tip of an iceberg. What people sometimes do not realise is what is under the surface. Under the surface of the Carindale Cougars AFL club's award is a team of tireless parents and club members. I would like to say a very big thank you to every volunteer who has worked in the canteen, coached a team or refereed a game. These people are indeed the real backbone of any community club, and I want to thank them sincerely for giving up their valuable time.

In particular, the club's success this season would not be without the club president, and now AFL Queensland's Administrator of the Year, Mr Evan Marshall. He is a true leader who works tirelessly to ensure kids at the club learn all of the valuable life lessons sporting teams teach, both on and off the field. I have not seen a volunteer work as tirelessly as Mr Marshall. There is nothing he will not do for the club. This man truly lives and breathes the Carindale Cougars.

One of Mr Marshall's great achievements was securing the new goalposts for the club's home field. As this is both the club's field and Belmont State School's oval, the posts are now being enjoyed by both the schoolkids and the sporting clubs in the great electorate of Chatsworth. The collaboration between Mr Marshall and the school's principal, Mr Anthony Palmer, in applying for a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund was one I was truly happy to support.

Just recently I visited the club after the works were completed, and the new posts look brilliant. The posts have already been put to good use by the keen and enthusiastic Cougars players. I enjoyed having a kick at goal with the kids recently, and they show plenty of promise for the future with their skill level. This project is an excellent example of two entities working closely together for the benefit of our community. It is great to see the kids transition from a lunchtime kick of the footy to wearing the Carindale Cougars jersey with pride on game day.

It is truly extraordinary what the mighty Carindale Cougars have achieved this year. With their award-winning president, Mr Evan Marshall, leading the way, the Cougars confirmed their standing as the Brisbane Lions Community Club of the Year. I am truly proud to call this club my local in the amazing electorate of Chatsworth.