



Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Kruger, Mr D

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (6.58 pm): I rise to inform the House of a special birthday. Dexter Kruger turned 109 years old on 13 January at a celebration held at the Rotary-run aged-care facility Pinaroo in Roma. Dexter Kruger is Australia's oldest man and the oldest Australian born citizen.

Now Dexter is not your average 109-year-old. He has published 12 books detailing his life and his latest titled *As You Like It* was published on his 109th birthday. Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not permitted by Dexter to table this book because he sells them on Facebook. Sorry, if anyone wants one, you will have to purchase it through Dexter's Facebook page.

He has been able to write 300 stories in 12 books. He is assisted by Janet Rowlings, who took over being his typist shortly after Dexter's 106th birthday, and little did she think that she would be working with him three years later. Janet has been honoured to type his last four books. Janet says Dexter has a phenomenal memory—and I can attest to that as well—and he makes her laugh every day. He has a quick, dry wit.

Dexter is on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. That is a pretty good effort for a 109-year-old. He has had some problems with Twitter though. Twitter did not allow him to input his year of birth because it does not think anyone could be born before 1910. It took some persistence, but Dexter was not perturbed by Twitter's shortcomings for the elderly and he eventually managed to set up a Twitter account.

Kicking off his birthday celebrations early, Dexter started the morning with an interview on ABC Radio National. Then it was off to church and a delicious morning tea. He then received a swathe of media attention later in the day, meeting with TV crews from Channel 7 and channel 10 in the afternoon before his big birthday bash. After all of the day's excitement, Dexter was somewhat worn out but his signature charm and wit did not tire. He said he even surprised himself with his stamina on the day. Mr Kruger regularly updates his social media. A quick google will find him—through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or Instagram where he updates his family and followers on his daily life.

Roma is proud to have Dexter in our community. I wish to extend my thanks to the staff at Pinaroo who provide 24/7 care for Australia's oldest man and to all the residents of the Pinaroo aged-care not-for-profit residential facility, which is directed by the local Rotary Club in Roma. I extend my thanks to the Rotary members for the work that they do for Pinaroo and aged care, and right across the region in relation to drought assistance and for what they do for the community in general. Thank you very much. On behalf of the House, I would like to pass on kind regards and best wishes to Dexter for his 109th birthday.