




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Cancer Council Queensland, Daffodil Day

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.17 pm): I had the pleasure of meeting with James and Montana from the Rockhampton branch of Cancer Council Queensland—CCQ—along with Chris from the Cairns branch. We took a tour of the Rockhampton facilities and I had the opportunity to discuss CCQ's services at a local and state level. Did members know that, each year, CCQ's accommodation lodges offer a potential 100,000 bed nights statewide and charge only the equivalent of the patient travel scheme allowance? This great organisation offers a wide range of cancer support services to assist patients and their families. In 2018, CCQ provided thousands of people in Central Queensland with support.

I also met with Merle and Shirley, who between them have volunteered for more than 60 years. They are truly wonderful and hardworking volunteers and I know that they are so much appreciated by the team at CCQ and the Central Queensland community as a whole.

Montana provided me with this key message for Daffodil Day. The Daffodil Day Appeal is raising funds for CCQ's vital cancer research throughout the month of August. That appeal culminates in Daffodil Day, which is tomorrow. The daffodil is the international symbol of hope for everyone affected by cancer. By getting involved in the Daffodil Day Appeal people can give others more than hope. Every person who donates, volunteers or buys daffodils this August will be helping to fund vital cancer research. Research is fundamental in unlocking the answers for a cancer-free future. Thanks to this investment in research, amazing advancements have been made in cancer prevention, screening and treatment, helping to increase survival rates from 49 per cent in the eighties to 69 per cent today.

The CCQ region of Central Queensland covers about a third of Queensland and there are approximately 1,300 new cancer cases each year. Research is vital in saving lives and finding less harsh cancer treatments. Money raised this Daffodil Day Appeal will help fund some of the brightest researchers in the country to discover the next cancer breakthroughs.

This week is Queensland Seniors Week and this year's theme is 'celebrating a Queensland for all ages'. I would like to acknowledge and thank seniors in my electorate and across Queensland for their achievements and contributions.