



Speech By  
**Bart Mellish**


**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2019

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Aspley Electorate; Aged Care**

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.15 pm): Last Friday I was very honoured to be invited to the Aspley Classes for Seniors annual lunch. It was a great afternoon, with presentations on line dancing, French and Russian. Next year, yoga is making a return to the Aspley Classes for Seniors. The seniors classes have been going very strong and will be for many years to come. Classes in the community are offered on such diverse topics as painting, computing for beginners, indoor bowls, line dancing—of course—mahjong, Italian, German, Russian, French, needlework and music. Literally, there is something for everyone.

Classes for Seniors is run by three great churches in the local community that work together—Aspley Uniting Church on Robinson Road, Our Lady and St Dymphna's Catholic Church on Robinson Road, and the Church of the Resurrection Anglican parish on Ridley Road. It is tough to single out people involved, given the very large and vast number of volunteers who help the group on a weekly basis and offer their services, but chair Ken Beer, treasurer Harley Juffs and all the committee deserve special recognition for doing a great job in the community. Of course, my office is happy to help them out where needed and was pleased to award them a Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant not long ago for painting materials.

One of the key things that the parliament state inquiry into aged care has shown—it is also highlighted in the fantastic ABC show that I recommend people watch, *Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds*—is the exponential benefits seniors gain by keeping active physically and mentally. On this, the Aspley community is ahead of the game thanks to Aspley Classes for Seniors. Aspley Uniting Church, which hosts a lot of the classes, will hold a market day on Saturday, 26 October. I encourage anyone in the area or driving past on Gympie Road to attend. Last year I bought a chilli plant, which I have somehow not yet managed to kill, but I am sure that is due to the good work of others in my household!

Elsewhere in the community, construction has started on the new home for Jabiru Community College, which will be housed right next door to the new home for the Northside Wizards. This was made possible by a grant of \$2.65 million from the Palaszczuk government as well as a substantial contribution from Jabiru. The funds will go towards fitting out a disused shed off Pineapple Street in Zillmere vacated by the former Newman government. Jabiru Community College already does fantastic things on the north side, and I am very pleased that I am able to help it secure a new home in Zillmere. It is a testament to Jabiru that construction has already commenced and that the school will be up and running by term 1 of 2020. They had to move out of the Bracken Ridge Library, so I am very pleased that the government was able to step in and sort out a solution. This is an organisation that had its funding substantially cut under the former Newman government, so it is great to see it back on the up and up.

Last weekend's Zillmere Festival, in which Jabiru plays a key role, was another great success. I was pleased to attend with my colleagues the member for Sandgate and Nudgee, with whom I share the suburb of Zillmere, and the councillor for Deagon ward, Jared Cassidy. There were plenty of great locals in attendance, and the festival has a great local focus on the community. Part 2 of the Bart Mellish Club challenge is coming up: Geebung v Aspley Bowls Club. I wish everyone all the best on that day.