



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2019

## ADJOURNMENT

### Jordan Electorate, Welcoming the Babies

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.15 pm): On Sunday, 8 September, we welcomed all the babies. To be precise, we welcomed around 100 babies into the Jordan community at our annual Welcoming the Babies event. This event is fast becoming one of my favourite events to host alongside our federal member for Oxley, Milton Dick MP. Whilst the event could be dubbed one of the cutest citizenship ceremonies, there is much more to this event for our community.

In 2017 there were 953 babies born in the Jordan electorate, which statistically is a birth rate of more than 16 per 1,000 people. The state average sits at 12 per 1,000; we have a lot of babies. As a mum, I know that becoming a parent to our two daughters was the most amazing and precious thing I could ever experience. I also know that it was one of the most difficult, and I sometimes wish I had sought more support when I had my first child. As the local state member, I want to ensure that parents—particularly new parents—know they have support and services available to assist them through their parenting journey. I also want to ensure that we plan for the future for the health and social services our families will need.

Welcoming the Babies brings together an array of incredible local services in our community to offer information, advice, referrals and even a shoulder to cry on for those sleep deprived mums and dads. I always begin with our baby health services, and I am so grateful for the support of West Moreton Health. The child health nurses are just amazing. They were kept very busy on the day answering queries, offering support and reminding our parents that the child health nurses have a clinic each Monday at the YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre. I would like to thank Mater, who is always so supportive of our greater Springfield community, and particularly Nurse Claire, who gave a fantastic baby CPR presentation on the day. Emma and Jess, these amazing counsellors from the Australian Breastfeeding Association, are there every day and late into the night helping mums with feeding questions and support, and I am a big fan of what ABA does in our community.

I would like to thank Kidsafe Australia and the Office of Fair Trading, who were also there. They play such an important role in keeping our kids safe. The knowledge they espouse, particularly around baby product safety, is second to none. Ipswich City Council libraries brought their First Five Forever van for an interactive library experience. We can never underestimate the importance of reading from an early age. I would like to thank all of the council staff who were kept very busy at the event. To all of our terrific early childhood services who participated on the day, thank you for all the activities you organised to keep the toddlers and little ones entertained, and of course all of our local businesses who cater for families: Peter McMahon's Swim Factory, for those important swim lessons; Revive Yoga & Wellness Centre, who provided the best interactive sessions of baby-friendly yoga and kangatraining. Thank you for your support. I will continue to grow our Welcoming the Babies event not only to celebrate the beautiful babies born into our community but, just as importantly, to celebrate and support their amazing parents.