




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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ADJOURNMENT

Mackay Electorate, Pioneer Tennis; Active Ageing Program

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.16 pm): Being healthy and fit and being into sport is becoming a way of life in Mackay. Just last weekend I joined with Councillor Ayril Paton, Col a regional representative from Tennis Queensland and Jenny the president of the Pioneer Tennis centre to officially open two brand-new international federation level tennis courts. The project has been built with a \$78,000 contribution through the state government's round 6 of Get Playing Places and Spaces, combined with Mackay Regional Council's \$90,000 contribution and \$20,000 each from Tennis Australia and Pioneer Tennis. This makes up the first stage of a four-stage redevelopment at the site, with a further six more ITF courts planned to be built along with junior courts to develop our youngest budding players. Mackay will be able to put its hands up to bid for second-tier world events, such as Challenger and Pro Tour events.

Get Playing Places and Spaces supports participation in sport and active recreation at the grassroots level by developing infrastructure to meet the needs of local communities like mine. It also creates places and spaces that address current and future sport and recreation participation needs so that all people in Mackay can reach for the stars, especially our young people in the tennis world who are playing on these international level courts. Up-and-coming tennis stars like young Lilly, aged 11, may very well be the next Ash Barty. Lilly is aiming to represent Mackay and see how far she can take her tennis. She was so excited to be able to have her first hit on the new tennis courts.

Queensland's seniors have contributed to making our state the thriving and vibrant place it is today. That is why the Palaszczuk government is ensuring that we have an ageing friendly community, where our seniors can enjoy and participate in social and economic wellbeing through a range of services, grants and projects.

The Central Queensland University was a successful recipient of \$58,000 towards an active ageing program through a partnership between Central Queensland University and Mackay Regional Council. The active ageing program supports the greater health and physical activity for seniors and caters to different skill levels with a broad range of activities. The programs help to keep our seniors active, independent and facilitate a broad range of challenges that focus on balance, stretching, mobility, weight, strength and group activity. The project has the potential for ongoing application and can be scaled to be applied anywhere.