




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Duxbury, Mr B; Grapevine Group

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (7.27 pm): I would like to pass on my sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Brad Duxbury, who tragically lost his life in an industrial accident last night at the Carborough Downs mine, which is located south-west of Mackay.

Back in my teaching days there was a little Christmas rhyme that the students would recite with their music teacher. It went like this—

Christmas is coming the goose is getting fat,
Please put a penny in the old man's hat,
If you haven't got a penny a halfpenny would do,
If you haven't got a halfpenny, then God bless you.

This little rhyme reminds us that there is a lot of excitement and anticipation in the community for the arrival of Christmas. The subtle message of this rhyme also reminds us that not everyone is going to have a great Christmas. In fact, for some members of our communities Christmas is a very difficult time.

Mackay's Grapevine Group is a local organisation that recognises that not everyone will be bathed in the glow of Christmas bliss. For some it is a painful time of the year that highlights loneliness or deep-seated issues that have been suppressed. Mackay's Grapevine is a suicide prevention group. It prepares our community for the lead-up to Christmas and to be aware and on the watch for those who are vulnerable at Christmas. On Thursday this week Grapevine will launch its Christmas message to the community to help everyone be aware of the 16 signs of suicidal thoughts and behaviours. The more education our community has about suicide, the more opportunities we have of making every conversation count, be aware of the signs and know where to seek support for ourselves or our friends or family members.

Throughout the year Grapevine delivers a free session for workplaces and individuals under its Safe Talk program. I have attended the training and recommend that everyone should do it. I also recommend that members make time for their staff to be trained as well. The training gives people the tools and the confidence to ask the difficult question, 'Are you thinking about suicide?' and be aware and alert to the 16 signs of suicide.

So far Grapevine has trained 5,502 locals in suicide prevention. It wants every conversation to count in our community. Grapevine has also produced a card about the size of a credit card with all the important services listed in the region. The Help-a-Mate card contains simple information that people can keep in their wallets. Grapevine has launched Heart to Heart Hairdressers in partnership with the Mackay Women's Centre to provide life-saving suicide prevention and domestic violence awareness for the Mackay region. Grapevine is in consultation with TAFE to include this training in its course for

apprentices. Eventually every hair salon and barber shop will have someone trained. This program should be rolled out into all of our communities. It is another opportunity to make every conversation count.

(Time expired)