




Speech By
Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 4 September 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Red Socks Project

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (7.29 pm): I kick off by saying thank you to every member who has travelled from their place on the earth here to Townsville. Joining me today and in the gallery is my lovely wife, Jackie, and my middle daughter, Jordan. Unfortunately, my son, Lachlan, could not make it. He is working tonight. It is lovely that they can come and see their dad and husband at work. We do not often get to see that, whereas a lot of other members have the good fortune of that.

I think I can speak on behalf of everyone in this chamber: families are the most important thing in our lives. That is why it was with great pleasure that I joined with the member for Burdekin, Dale Last, in co-hosting and co-sponsoring our Red Socks program this year. Thanks, mate. I really appreciate it. A lot of members wore their red socks today—thank you, thank you and thank you.

We know that one in seven males over the age of 60 will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Have a look around the room, members. Members in the gallery, I ask you to have a look around. While it may not necessarily be you, it may be your father, your husband, your son, your brother, your best mate. While we had a bit of a chuckle about it, this is serious. Men's health is serious. We need to do something about this.

Brian and Peter, who came in today to take a photo with us, started this project and they have done 6,000 pairs of socks. This is not a fundraiser. This is an awareness program. If you have not had your prostate checked and you are over the age of 50, you need to do something about it. You need to do something about it pretty quickly.

This program has gone out into the bush. The Flinders Shire Council decided that every household in their shire—750—would receive a pair of red socks. That has started the conversation with the doctors. Men are now turning up to their local GP and talking about men's health and mental health. They are getting their body checked. This is a great program. I thank each and every member in this House today who wore your red socks and came up and got your photo with us. Why did you do that? You did it because it is about promoting men's health. I thank you from the bottom of my heart and my father's heart for doing that.