




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

ADJOURNMENT

National Stroke Week

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.08 pm): I want to start by thanking all those members of the government who have hung around so long just to hear me speak.

Government members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Some things never change, and my love of having the government here to listen to what I have to say has not changed in any way, shape or form—although I feel I am on the last plane out of Saigon here as the last speaker today. It has been a delightful week up here in Townsville, as it always is. I came up here I think almost 24 times in the 20 months that I was opposition leader.

I do want to touch on a serious matter. Monday, 2 September to Sunday, 8 September is National Stroke Week. I raise a particular issue not because I nearly felt like I was having a few of them as the history of the LNP government was read out here and I was unable to respond, nor because I would rather be on the golf course, which I would not—I would rather be here—but because National Stroke Week affects a very dear friend and constituent of mine, a young lady called Emily Benham.

Every year, Emily hosts a Stroke Week event for young people. We normally think of stroke as something that happens to people over 55, but in fact it is a great tragedy when it happens to people much younger. Emily is one of those. She woke up on a Friday in 2015 feeling like it was any other day but, at about 11.30 am, while walking into the Flowers in the Field shop in Clayfield she suffered a stroke and discovered her aorta was dissecting. She now has fought her way back and, with help and care is obviously still going—and going strong—seeking to spread the word for young people who suffer from stroke. I encourage everyone to go to the Stroke Week site and see what can be done about it. There are a couple of stroke prevention tips—regular exercise, going for a stroll, eating fish a couple of times a week. One that will of course be taken up very strongly by members here, if they do drink, make red wine their first choice, because it contains Resveratrol. I did not know about it, but it is thought to protect the heart and brain. I expect to be going to at least 100, much to the chagrin of many people!

Let me conclude by saying that in government the LNP delivered for Townsville an average unemployment rate of 6.2 per cent as opposed to Labor's nine per cent—more young people employed, fewer young people unemployed. We love Townsville, and we will be back under Deb in 2020.