




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Community Sport

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.03 pm): As Queensland unites and recovers, a key piece of the puzzle has been missing for our community until recently and that is community sports. I was proud as punch to join our Premier and Minister de Brenni at the mighty Jindalee Jags a few Sundays ago to see the girls team beat the boys team in a fabulous match in our beautiful Queensland winter sunshine. We launched the next round of FairPlay vouchers for families doing it tough during COVID. We do not want kids to miss out on the joy of playing sport because mum and dad have lost their job or have lost some hours due to COVID-19. I encourage all Mount Ommaney families—indeed, all Queensland families—to look into FairPlay vouchers and grab one if they can. It really helps to take the pressure off at this time.

Last Saturday morning I was on hand at Grindle Road, Wacol to blow the air horn on the very first kids fixtures for the fantastic St Cats soccer club. I thank president Anthony for extending that invitation. It was really exciting for me, and the kids were excited. I have to say that what really struck me was the mums and dads who were absolutely beside themselves to get their kids out of the house and onto the playing field for what felt like the first time in months so they could get some of that creative energy out. My little fellow Heath has his first game with the Oxley United under-8 Glory mixed boys and girls team tomorrow. He is the most excited that I have ever seen him. There has been no problem getting him to training at all this year.

The Palaszczuk government knows that community sport is absolutely vital for the health and wellbeing of our kids, not to mention their mums and dads, many of whom play on the adult teams. That is why recently we gave all eligible community clubs a \$2,000 grant towards their COVID-safe equipment and planning. I know that it went a long way in my local community.

Of course, none of this would be remotely possible without the dedication of our amazing community club sport volunteers. Our coaches, our referees, the grants writers—the list goes on and on. Can I please take a moment to recognise the work that has been put in by the community clubs in Mount Ommaney and right around Queensland? There are the volunteer club presidents and of course the committee of volunteers that backs them up. I will recognise just a few here in this House today for the amazing work they have done in the last few months: Anthony on the St Cats team; Russell, Helen and Claire from Oxley United; Bill, Wayne and the gang who welcomed us that morning at the Jindalee Jags; and Simon, Belinda and the Centenary Stormers team. I note that the summer sports are gearing up as well with Rodney and the Western Bulldogs—they are hard at work already with the new batting cages that the Palaszczuk government funded—and Kay and the Little Athletics as well who are still playing on the Centenary Stormers' fields.

Many workplaces have worked hard to pivot and reorganise to unite and recover, but these amazing clubs and volunteers have done it for free.