




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 27 May 2021

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

The Cure Starts Now

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I call the very colourfully attired member for Thuringowa.

Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.09 pm): I do not mind being a little brave and donning the pink floral jacket. It is a 'dare to wear' and it is for a very good cause. It is raising money for The Cure Starts Now. The Cure Starts Now was started in Queensland by Townsville dad, Ren Peterson, who lost his daughter Amy, at just seven years of age, to a rare cancer, DIPG, diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, a brain stem cancer for which there is no cure. He promised Amy he would continue to raise money for medical research in this state to find a cure. I commend him for his great work.

This Sunday, 30 May, I will be taking the Harper truck to participate in the Convoy for The Cure, another fundraising event in Townsville, where about 100 trucks and motorbikes follow a 28-kilometre tour through Townsville, along Riverway Drive, and gather at the end. Every truck is sponsored and raises money. Last year they raised about \$90,000, which is fantastic.

By the time this speech is over this jacket will have raised nearly \$2,000. I thank the following members for their contributions: the Premier, the Treasurer—who said as I walked in 'I have to support it now I have seen it'—the members for Bundamba, Capalaba, Mackay, Kurwongbah, Pumicestone, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Redlands, Algester, Maryborough, Townsville and Mundingburra. I thank Wendy Bourne for contributing to this cause. I cannot thank you enough. Our city gets right behind this fundraiser and thousands of people come out. I am also very proud to share that Kirwan State High School, which lost their principal—Livo—to brain cancer, does a gala dinner. These are two big events, the Convoy for The Cure and the gala dinner, raising much needed money for research into childhood brain cancer.

This can happen to anyone in any electorate. We should all get behind it. I ask members across the chamber to get behind it. The member for Hinchinbrook has one of his trucks coming from Ingham to join in the Convoy for The Cure, which is fantastic. This is an important charity. At the end of the day it is all about finding a cure. I thank the members of the Queensland Police Service who escorted me into the chamber. On Sunday the QPS will provide an escort for the Convoy for The Cure. I thank them very much for getting behind this and encourage everyone in Townsville to get behind it. The cure starts now.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): It is a good cause and I would probably double my donation if you took the jacket off.