




Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2021

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.08 pm): I take this opportunity to inform the House of the exceptional work that the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre has been doing at the heart of the Hervey Bay community for over 30 years. The centre has become an integral part of our community. Over the whole of the 21 years I have been in the region it has been led by amazing, dedicated women like Joyce Chorny, who is a living legend in our community, and now the current CEO, Tanya Stevenson, who is driving forward innovation at every turn.

The extraordinary staff at the centre provide a high level of service on the more than 30 programs they run at the centre including legal and tenancy services, aged and disability care and multicultural programs, youth mentoring, employment and homelessness programs, playgroups and intensive family support initiatives. They also pioneer innovation with projects such as the Fraser Coast social plan and the new and exciting Neighbourhood Hive community space. Excellent outcomes from the programs just noted come about because the Palaszczuk government does not underestimate the significance of the work the centre does for the Hervey Bay community. I am pleased to inform the House that recently the Palaszczuk Labor government granted a further \$1.2 million to the centre to continue to provide legal assistance to the people of Hervey Bay and make this assistance available when those most vulnerable in our community need it.

Another notable new project by the centre is the Neighbourhood Hive, which is creating a Queensland-leading community space focusing on providing shared learning opportunities for skills development in a safe, welcoming environment for all members of the community, community groups and organisations. As its name suggests, the Hive represents a collective sharing of skills, programs, services and facilities that aid the development of our community. It will include a local learning hub, workshops and courses, all in a 1,600-square-metre shed right in the heart of Hervey Bay city.

This pilot project, funded for \$27,000, has grown into a community space currently valued at over \$375,000 through community and business support. This initiative got its start through the support of the Palaszczuk government's Thriving Communities grants, a well-targeted grant program that helps neighbourhood and community centres continue to be vital places where people come together and where people go when they need support.

I take this opportunity to thank the centre's CEO, her staff and volunteers for their dedication, tenacity and vision. The Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre is an exemplar in forward thinking, engaging with the community and the state government to ensure services are accessible, and to help facilitate social wellbeing and enterprise. By assisting with these outcomes through grants such as Thriving Communities, the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering for the people of Hervey Bay and keeping the Hervey Bay electorate safe and strong.