




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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ADJOURNMENT

Jordan Electorate, National Volunteer Week

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.02 pm): Last week marked National Volunteer Week, which was an opportunity to thank the over 700,000 Queenslanders and six-plus million Aussies who volunteer their time. And it is a lot of time. According to Volunteering Australia, 600 million hours were dedicated to supporting others. In one week in my own electorate of Jordan I was able to see the extraordinary impact that volunteers are having on individuals, the community and the environment around us.

Early in the week I attended the first birthday of the Flagstone Community Centre. The centre, established by Uniting Care and run by the wonderful Susan Hawke, has provided a much needed local space for our government health services, community service providers, local community groups and individuals seeking support. The birthday party was an opportunity to thank the many volunteers who contribute to the community centre, from wonderful individuals and businesses to organisations including the Flagstone Community Association and Jimboomba Quota.

On Wednesday night I was really pleased to host a special event for all of our P&Cs and P&Fs in the Jordan electorate. Those are the amazing parents on the school executives who make the decisions, do the fundraising and manage the projects. They host the events and they advocate for their school communities. Our schools cannot do without them.

On Saturday morning I was back in Flagstone visiting the incredible Daniel, who is establishing the Flagstone Foodbank. Daniel runs his charity, Beyond Barriers. He walked me through their new space, which is currently being renovated by amazing tradies who have volunteered their services and donated many of the building products to get the food bank up and running. It is incredible. Daniel has a dedicated group of people who are volunteering their time to help set up the food bank and accompanying op shop. I am looking forward to spending some time there helping out as well.

Later that day I was proud to be invited to represent the Minister for Multicultural Affairs at the Bengali new year celebrations. The dedicated volunteers of the Bangladesh Association in Brisbane had spent months organising that wonderful event and they welcomed over 1,000 people to our community. Just as with the recent Indian new year celebrations organised by the Varnam Cultural Society, the Congo Flavours Festival organised by AusCongo and our Greater Springfield RSL, which organised a moving Anzac Day Service, dedicated volunteers spend months preparing, planning and ensuring COVID safe events can go ahead for the enjoyment of our community.

On Sunday I had breakfast with the incredible volunteers of our Springfield Lakes Nature Care Group. It is a wonderful group of locals who do so much to support and protect our natural environment, whether it is planting trees, collecting rubbish from our parks or catching those dreaded cane toads in our lakes.

I finished the week with the Springfield Christian Family, which celebrated 25 years as a church. Through their charitable arm, Westside Community Care, and their many volunteers, they continue to support many local community members. I am so grateful for their service and care. It has been a week to celebrate our incredible volunteers in the Jordan electorate, but as we know they are there not only during National Volunteer Week; they are there every week. For that we say thank you!