




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Allery, Mr R and Brooks, Mr B

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.06 pm): I doubt that there is one person in this House who has not had a close association with or family member touched by cancer. This is a speech that I do not wish to give but I will because there are so many people battling some form of this insidious disease.

Today I want to talk about two young men from the Kingaroy area, my nephew Ryley Allery and Ben Brooks. Both men are 22 and in May of this year both were diagnosed with different forms of leukaemia. Those two young men are in the prime of their lives. They are now down here in Brisbane, in their respective hospitals, battling the disease. I wish to highlight this because we need to ensure that not just young men but all young people go to the doctor and get checked if they are not feeling well. And if you have an ability to give blood, please, give blood.

I want to give a shout-out to the incredible community that I represent. Those two young boys were struck down by leukaemia within two weeks of each other, first Ryley and then Ben. Their local footy team, the mighty Red Ants, and a couple of other young blokes got together to put on a fundraiser. The local business community got behind that fundraiser, which was run by the 20-year-olds; it was not run by the older people. I give a big shout-out to those young blokes: Mitchell Case, Ben Irwin, Jack Doggett, Connor Sullivan, Martyn McCracken and Andy Champney. On the night there were at least 1,000 people—which sounds too many—at the Kingaroy Pub. Over 60 young blokes and a few older ones had their heads and/or their beards shaved. Those young kids raised over \$40,000 for both Ryley's and Ben's struggle with leukaemia.

There are so many people I wish to thank but, in particular, I want to give a shout-out to Leukaemia House. Both the Brooks and the Allery families have an opportunity to spend time with their young sons by being provided access to a unit at Leukaemia House. Obviously, country people cannot travel backwards and forward. In Ryley's case, his mum and dad—Jackie, my sister and John, my brother-in-law—travel to Brisbane every Thursday and go back home every Monday. They are also trying run a business and their lives. Ryley's girlfriend, Chloe, spends the other week nights in Brisbane so someone is always with Ryley. The same goes for Ben. I want to give a shout-out to Teagan Krosch, Ben's fiancée, who is expecting their first child. God be with all of you.