




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Stretton Electorate, Badminton

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (2.56 pm): I rise to speak about the fastest racquet sport in the world—faster than tennis or squash—and one of the most popular sports in the electorate of Stretton. I am talking about badminton. Whilst it has not enjoyed massive popularity in Australia in the past, the game is very popular in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan and India. As Stretton is the most multicultural electorate in Queensland, it is no surprise that badminton is going from strength to strength in Stretton. I am sure the suburbs in my electorate must have the most badminton players of any electorate in Queensland. In fact I would go as far as saying that Stretton is the beating heart of badminton in Queensland.

One of the biggest badminton champions in my area is Eric Yap, the president of the Malaysian Club of Queensland, who met with me a few weeks ago about supporting this great sport. Eric has definitely won me over. After meeting with Eric, I went along with William Wu, who is a constituent of Stretton but also the long-serving electorate officer of the member for Toohey. He invited me along to play my first game of badminton. He loves the game and he attributes his 11-kilo weight loss solely to it.

Mr Power: I need to do it.

Mr MARTIN: I take that interjection. He introduced me to Ricky Yu, who is also a constituent of Stretton and runs the Sky Badminton Centre. Ricky is a former Australian national badminton team coach and Malaysian national team coach. He originally started Sky Badminton in an old furniture warehouse in 2017. It is now so popular that they have had to take over the other half of the warehouse. I had a great time playing doubles and learning some of the basic skills, so thanks to Ricky and William.

Groups like the Sunnybank Hills Badminton Club and the Brisbane Taiwanese Sports Club also run social badminton in my local area. I recently joined my good mate Eddie Lei, a former electorate officer for the Stretton electorate office who is also a constituent of Stretton, out at the Calamvale college with the team from the Brisbane Taiwanese Sports Club. It was great to see the Calamvale hall filled with players of all ages. They have a volunteer coach on hand to help with novice badminton players like me. The shuttlecocks are free but you must bring your own racquet.

They play on Saturdays from 9.30 to 11.30 at the Calamvale College thanks to Kevin, the president. The badminton options are endless in Stretton. I look forward in the future to joining the Distinguished Citizens Society of Queensland which also runs a social badminton league in Calamvale but on Sunday afternoons. Thanks to Wayne Ko and president Gary Shih who have invited me along to their big badminton tournament later this month.