




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Pool Safety

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.27 pm): Tonight I want to talk about an issue that is important to everybody in Queensland because we do live in a beautiful hot, sunny state, and that is pool safety. I am making a speech at the request of a local business, Robson's Pool Safety, because they deal with this issue every single day.

As members of the House may know, I have a much younger sibling. When I was a young teenager, about 14 years old, I would take Isabella to feed the dog and the food bowl was in the pool enclosure. One day I took Isabella in and she was helping me with the food. After just one second I did not hear her voice answer me when I went to put the food in the bowl. I turned around and there she was in the swimming pool. I did not hear a thing. She had fallen in the water. She was reaching for the ladder but could not reach it. It was in that moment that I realised that drowning can be completely silent and, if you are not paying complete attention, anything can happen. I was so grateful that I did turn around so quickly. I got Isabella out of the water and she was completely fine and had not inhaled any water. That really enforced to me the importance of closing the pool gate.

My parents did get a pool fence in line with the regulations before they were passed. On another occasion a little boy from up the road actually wandered up to the back of our house. It was our back pool fence that stopped him from falling into our swimming pool. We did not know he was there. His poor mum had taken her eyes off him for a moment while she hung out the washing. He came into our backyard and, if not for the fence, he would have been in our swimming pool because he was trying to get a ball that he could see. He could not get in the pool because we had a pool fence. I was so grateful when I found that little boy. I took him out to the street. His poor mother came tearing around 30 seconds later and told me, 'I just took my eye off him for a minute.' She did not have a swimming pool, but we did and thank goodness it was fenced.

Robson's Pool Safety have spent all summer conducting their inspections. In my remaining time I want to share some pool safety tips from an Australian award-winning business in this space. Firstly, do not prop your gates open. It might be slightly more convenient to do so, but having those gates saves lives and they only work if they are closed and sealed shut. Make sure you leave items like chairs, tables, toys et cetera away from pool fences. They are a great way for inquiring little bodies to climb over the fence. Make sure you get your pool fence checked periodically as a matter of course. You might not have changed anything, but something might have rusted or a bolt may have come away and you may not have noticed. That is why it is important to get this checked. Lastly, supervise. Make sure there is a responsible, sober adult watching the pool at all times.

Since the Labor government introduced pool safety laws about 10 years ago, we have decreased the number of drownings in young kids in this state by 50 per cent. Let's eliminate the other 50 per cent.