



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Algester Electorate**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (7.03 pm): If the coronavirus pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we are stronger together. Across the state we have seen our communities face the challenges of this pandemic over the past year with the true Queensland spirit that makes this the best state to live in, and the same was evident in the Algester electorate.

Last year in 2020 the Algester & Districts Probus club celebrated its 40th anniversary. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, members were unable to mark the significant milestone in the usual way. This year it has done just that with a celebration lunch attended by close to 90 people. I was fortunate to meet with members of the executive committee—Graham and Penelope Pilsworth, David Smith, Gary Adams and Laurel Munro—to congratulate them on the outstanding efforts of the Algester & Districts Probus club and reflect on the club's last 40 years, including the growth it has experienced over those years.

Founded in 1980, this club is now the oldest Probus club in Queensland. This is a great achievement for the Algester & Districts Probus club and a true testament to the Probus values of friendship, fellowship and fun. Probus clubs are among the largest organisations to support retired and semiretired people to remain connected and engaged—something that has been even more important with the onset of COVID-19 restrictions. These clubs offer activities, outings and meetings that nurture friendships, provide support and develop connections among members, which is particularly important for older Queenslanders. The Algester & Districts Probus club is one of the many organisations in the Algester electorate that continued to support the local community during the necessary restrictions that kept us all safe during the height of the pandemic.

Organisations like Souths Junior Rugby Club and belong in Acacia Ridge, the Lighthouse in Hillcrest, National Seniors and Rotary in Browns Plains and the Algester Parkinson Lions Club, just to name a few, all found COVID-safe ways to connect and support people across the Algester electorate. Volunteers across multiple Algester community organisations, including in my office, made thousands of phone calls to seniors and vulnerable people to check in, have a chat and see whether they needed any information or services. Many others arranged food hampers, the delivery of essential medications or offered to mow lawns among other things. These volunteers joined more than 25,000 Queenslanders in our Care Army—an outstanding outpouring of support from Queenslanders for so many others who were vulnerable during the time of the restrictions.

It is during these times of great challenge that we truly see the importance of mateship and community, and the Algester electorate is a shining example. Congratulations once again to the Algester & Districts Probus club on its 40th anniversary. I wish President Beth Schmidt, Secretary Michelle Little and all members a happy anniversary and best wishes for many more years.