



Speech By  
**Michael Hart**


**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 March 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### Hope in a Suitcase

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.00 pm): Hope in a Suitcase is a charitable organisation spreading rapidly across Australia partnering with child safety agencies and caseworkers to assist in helping children to feel worthy, loved and hopeful. Many children in foster care move from home to home with only a few belongings that they carry in a plastic bag which is then dragged around with them to each placement. The mission of Hope in a Suitcase is to provide children entering or currently living in foster care and/or out-of-home care something to call their own to send them a message that they are important and cared for by the community.

In December I sponsored a group of local mothers to come together with their children and pack suitcases for Hope in a Suitcase, South-East Queensland region. These local mothers wanted a chance to empower their children to think of others and appreciate their good fortune by shopping for and packing essential items into suitcases that I provided. Essentials we take for granted like toothpaste, toiletries, clean underwear and a teddy to cuddle are just a few of the items included in each suitcase.

I am pleased to say that in December over 35 full suitcases plus boxes of extra items were provided to Karen Germon, the local coordinator, to be distributed across the Gold Coast. Australian founder Rachael Clancy states—

The effects of 'hope in a suitcase' go beyond the direct impact of the resources they provide. Its empowering and makes room for positive change within our community in a way that nothing else can.

Children with a strong sense of self worth feel competent to cope with the basic challenges of life and feel worthy of success and happiness. It gives them a solid foundation for their learning and development. It is empowering and makes room for positive change in a way that nothing else can.

Lets move from a plastic bag of embarrassment, hurt, shame, fear and insecurity to a suitcase full of HOPE.