




Speech By
Robert Skelton

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Nicklin Electorate

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (7.16 pm): I rise to speak on some amazing people and organisations in the beautiful Sunshine Coast hinterland. Firstly, I would like to tell the story of a chance meeting on a train and a developing friendship. Brodie Taylor is a 25-year-old man who is wheelchair bound. His debilitating disease has made this his life. He does not complain and his lust for life and sense of fun and mischief is an inspiration to me and anyone he meets. I thank him, his carers, Lauren Bourke and Savannah Lubke, for coming to my office and arranging a play date for Brodie and I at the Mapleton Tavern. Myself, Brodie, Savannah and my partner Aggie enjoyed a lovely meal with a splendid view. We have resolved that we will have a monthly catch-up for people of different needs and their carers. This is an opportunity to build knowledge and develop long-lasting friendships.

The team at Equity Works in Nambour and Kylie Moore organise the annual A Fair Day Out at the Eumundi Markets. This music for people of different needs and their carers has been going for nine years. It was amazing to see the many bands that performed. You are all absolute rock stars! I am so proud to represent such a vibrant and inclusive community. Thank you to all the carers on this Carers Week.

It is also SES Week. This is a chance for us all to pause and think about the wonderful volunteers that are our SES. I would like to personally thank those volunteers who are based in my home of Palmwoods. They do such a great job in keeping us all safe. With storm season approaching, I know that these men and women will be giving up their time, putting themselves at risk and answering many emergency calls.

I would also like to pay my respects to the brave firefighters of Queensland and around the world. 10 October is Firefighters' Remembrance Day. Fifty-five firefighters have lost their lives in the service of our great state. It was a solemn occasion at St Peters in Coolumb and I thank QFES, the RFS, community members, the church and other members of this parliament who attended.

While I am on my feet I take the chance to inform everyone of the Murri Carnival coming up on Friday at Nambour Crushers Rugby League Club. It kicks off at 6 pm with the mighty Sunshine Coast Bunyas taking on Cherbourg in a veterans game. This is a weekend of fun and free grassroots football. I thank Brad and the team at the Sunshine Coast Bunyas for hosting all these teams from across our great state. It does not cost anything to get in, so if you want to have a good weekend and see some great grassroots football, and possibly see an emerging Artie Beetson, Johnathan Thurston, Mal Meninga or Steve Renouf, get up to Nambour on the weekend.