




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 24 March 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Redcliffe Electorate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (7.03 pm): I certainly live in an amazing community. I want to acknowledge and pay tribute to Lee Duke, who is a war veteran in my community, for organising the Walking off the War Within event last weekend. This event is a remarkable initiative which raises awareness of mental health, mental illness, depression and PTSD in our Defence Force but, more broadly, our emergency services in the broader community. The event was in honour of the late Nathan Shanahan, a returned soldier, firefighter and the mind behind Walking off the War Within. Sadly, he lost his fight with that war.

Mental illness and PTSD is an issue that touches the lives of so many Queenslanders. I was privileged to take part in the event last weekend and show my support to veterans, their families and the entire community. I am advised that between 2001 and 2017 there were 419 suicides from serving, ex-serving and reserve ADF personnel. We know that number has gone up since. These are extremely confronting statistics. I know that the past year has placed unprecedented pressures on families, created anxiety and stress, and impacted people's mental wellbeing. It is a timely reminder for us all to take stock and check in with our friends, our family members and our colleagues and ask them are they okay. A small gesture like this could go a long way.

I want to thank Lee for putting on the event. I want to thank Nathan's dad, John, who came along on Saturday and spoke. I know it was difficult for both of them. Lee actually served with Nathan in the Defence Force. I look forward to joining Lee again next year for a really important cause. I thank everyone who participated in the event. I had many positive and constructive discussions with participants along the walk about the importance of open communication and supporting each other each and every day.

While I am on my feet I want to give a shout-out to Dr Joel Dulhunty from the Redcliffe Hospital. He is spending his holiday doing a 40-day, 2,500-kilometre marathon bike ride from Cairns to Brisbane via Cooktown and Atherton Tablelands. While this sounds like a lot of fun, he is doing it with his wife to raise \$120,000 to fund a senior university researcher at our local hospital. I wish them both well in this. Anyone who wants to support it should go to www.raiseitforredcliffe.com.au.

Finally, I want to give a shout-out to the mighty Redcliffe Dolphins. I see the member for Kurwongbah in the chamber whose son is in the team this year for the Intrust Cup. We wish them all the best. They beat the Cutters in this first game, 30-28. We think they have a great season ahead. My full support is also in for the next NRL bid. We want to see the Dolphins as part of the NRL. We are in for the fight. We believe Redcliffe should absolutely win it.