




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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ADJOURNMENT

Jordan Electorate, Community Centres

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.04 pm): On 2 July our Gailes community gathered, despite the rain, to celebrate 20 glorious years of the incredible Gailes Community House. Two decades ago, a small group of committed residents came together with the aim to provide events and activities to assist the community to band together, get to know their neighbours and encourage social connection, developing a positive and well connected suburb of Gailes. Through their work and persistence, Gailes Community House opened its doors to the community in July 2002—a fantastic neighbourhood centre operating from a decommissioned public housing property. Since that time, this little house in Karina Street has offered a safe and welcoming environment.

It was wonderful to catch up with some of the original residents at the 20th year celebration because, as the song says, ‘from little things big things grow’. It was also lovely to see the former member for Inala, the Hon. Henry Palaszczuk, who was the local member at the time and was a strong supporter in the establishment of the centre under the Beattie Labor government.

As the state member representing this wonderful community, I am grateful for Gailes Community House. Today, it is a thriving neighbourhood centre offering a range of important programs, services and social groups in the local community. I am also very proud that this year’s state budget included a significant increase in funding for our neighbourhood centres and was so happy to share with the wonderful team at Gailes Community House—Donna, Naomi, Leanne and Kelly-Ann—that they will see the centre’s annual funding more than doubled. This is incredible news that will make a tangible difference for the Gailes community.

Another organisation that is truly valued in the Jordan electorate is the Vedanta Centre in Springfield Lakes. The Vedanta Centre is a branch of the Ramakrishna Order in India. The centre runs a number of wonderful community and spiritual programs, including yoga, children’s and school holiday programs and so much more.

Tonight, I would like to focus on the Maa Sarada’s soup kitchen which has been running from the centre for a number of years. On a Saturday people can pop along to the community cafe and enjoy the most delicious food at an affordable price—dosa, samosas and, my new favourite, pani poori. The funds raised from the very popular community cafe are reinvested into running the soup kitchen.

During COVID-19 the amazing and dedicated volunteers—some of whom travel from Deception Bay to Springfield—went into overdrive, preparing ready-made meals for the local community members in need and those who were isolating. In fact, since 2020, the supporters of the centre have cooked and packed more than 10,000 meals for our local community and region.

It was wonderful a few weeks ago to attend a very special community event for the dedication of a brand new commercial kitchen for the centre. It is absolutely wonderful and I know the volunteers are excited about being able to use this new larger kitchen. They have said they are going to prepare even more meals—if that is even possible. I want to thank everyone involved at the Vedanta Centre and look forward to sharing a meal with them again very soon.