



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.47 pm): The YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre has been an integral part of our local community. Last week, we gathered to celebrate 10 years of this incredible centre. In all communities, but especially in growth areas like Greater Springfield, most will focus on the hard infrastructure—the roads, the schools and the physical buildings and structures that we can visually see. Do not get me wrong: these things are all vitally important, but it is the unseen that means the most to me—the services that mean a child may get fed this morning because there is a breakfast club at the school; a person about to be made homeless has somewhere they can come and be connected with a housing service to help them find a roof over their head tonight; a woman who deep down knows there is something not quite right in her relationship and by having a safe space and someone that she can share those doubts with may find herself making a plan for a better life that she deserves.

It may be the young person who is struggling with their mental health and not sure if what they are feeling is normal, or it may be a young mum in those early foggy months of parenting who can barely make it out of the door but perhaps meeting other mothers at playgroup may just help her get through, or it may be a community seeking a place to practise their religion knowing they will be warmly welcomed. I talk about the unseen, but I have seen all of this at the YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre.

During the 2022 hailstorm event, I saw once again the importance of the community centre. Yes, you can set up a recovery centre in a school hall, but do you know the right services to bring in that people need right now? Can they organise the insurers? Do they have the connections to the amazing and kind-hearted businesses in our region who offered food, water, money and equipment? You have to know your community to know what they need, and the YMCA knew our community because they are part of our community.

When I was elected in 2017, I worked closely with the Y to jointly establish Greater Springfield Regional Connect, an amazing group that comes together to better understand what services are in our community, where the gaps are and how we can work more cohesively for the benefit of our beautiful community. It is something I am incredibly proud of, and we are making inroads on a range of important issues, but I would not have been able to establish this without the YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre and particularly Bec Andlemac.

I truly think of the YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre as a gift to our community. On this, their 10th anniversary, I wanted to offer a gift to the centre in return. The amazing Jennifer Kent of Manamana Dreaming is a local First Nations artist. Her work is truly incredible. Importantly, every piece tells a unique and meaningful story. I was so pleased to be able to present a specially commissioned artwork called *Making Dampier* to the centre at a special anniversary dinner. Not only has Jenny Kent

provided the painting but also she provided a YouTube video you can follow to see all of the elements of the painting, which is just amazing. I hope that it will find pride of place by the centre to be enjoyed by the community in recognition of the incredible and ongoing impact the Y has had in our community.