




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Stretton Electorate, Lions Clubs

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (6.28 pm): I would like to recognise the extraordinary achievements of local Lions clubs and their members. This year is the 75th anniversary of the formation of the very first Lions club in Australia. Today there are over 1,100 Lions clubs across the country. Over the past 75 years, Lions have grown to become Australia's largest service club organisation. Last year alone they raised more than \$28 million for medical research, health care, disability assistance, emergency response and environmental projects. Each year Lions donate more than two million hours of support to lift up our communities and develop our young leaders. Some of the wonderful achievements of Lions clubs include supporting the development of the cochlear implant, helping to fund research into the Gardasil vaccine, establishing the Lion Eye Institute and continued research into spinal cord injury and Alzheimer's disease.

My local area has a number of fantastic Lions clubs that do amazing work for the community, including the Calamvale Lions, Pinelands Lions, Macgregor Lions, Lions Club of Brisbane Chinese and Lions Club of Brisbane United Asia Business. When Brisbane was hit hard by flooding earlier this year, Lions members were out and about helping their neighbours and raising money for flood appeals. President Flora Fang and the Lions Club of Brisbane Chinese hosted a flood appeal fundraising dinner at the famous Landmark Restaurant, raising \$26,000. The Calamvale Lions were also out at Sunnybank Hills Shoppingtown raising money to donate to the Lions Australia Foundation National Flood Appeal.

They provide not only charitable service but also social service. I give a special mention to Carl Miller and the team from the UA Lions for their spectacular Christmas party last year. I am very much looking forward to attending the Calamvale Lions changeover breakfast in a few weeks time. Though they are a smaller club, they certainly punch above their weight. A big thankyou to president Amanda Harrison and treasurer Jenny Maguire for all the hard work they have done over the past 12 months. In April I attended the 45th anniversary dinner for the Pinelands Lions Club. I congratulate Ian Smith, Hugh Cullen and the team. On the night, they calculated that since the club was chartered they have given about 179,000 hours of volunteer work and over \$1.1 million donated towards my local community—a fantastic effort.

This Saturday is also the 50th birthday for the Macgregor Lions Club led by President Kathy McCarthy. It is being held at the fantastic Runcorn Tavern. I will be there. I am sure it will be a fun filled event. Indeed, with so much community service, there is so much to celebrate and I am incredibly proud of the Lions clubs and what they do for our local community.