



Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**


**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 March 2022

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.54 pm): Across the world there has been increasing recognition of the issue of social isolation and loneliness. We know that social isolation and loneliness have a significant impact on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of so many people. Queenslanders including seniors, people with disability and their carers, people with mental illness and young people are amongst the most vulnerable groups that are susceptible or prone to social isolation and loneliness. Of course, there has been a huge increase in social isolation and loneliness because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has had a big impact on Queenslanders, particularly vulnerable people who are at biggest risk of social isolation and loneliness.

In fact, in 2020 the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported that the personal stressor most experienced by Australians during the COVID-19 pandemic was loneliness. Up to one in five people reported feelings of loneliness and social isolation as a result of the pandemic. That is why in 2020 as a government we committed to undertaking a parliamentary inquiry into social isolation. This report is delivering on that commitment to take real steps towards addressing social isolation and loneliness.

I want to make special mention of our neighbourhood and community centres and give a particular shout-out to my local neighbourhood centres: Goodna Neighbourhood House and community centres in Riverview and Redbank Plains. I also mention the magnificent work undertaken by the African Youth Support Council at Redbank Plains. They all provide places of connection and places of community, where people can come together. We have so many other groups that provide these valuable spaces. I commend this report to the House. I thank the committee, particularly the chair, for what is an excellent report.