




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Walk for a Cure

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.06 pm): One Australian is diagnosed with brain cancer every five hours. Eighty per cent of patients diagnosed will die within five years. Brain cancer kills more children in Australia than any other disease. There is no cure. Earlier this month my family and I led a community initiative to raise funds and awareness for those battling brain cancer. My family recently lost our beloved Peter Hudson to brain cancer. Alongside my dad, my Uncle Pete was one of the most important male figures in my life. He was the most brilliant, kind man and this world is much poorer for him not being in it. He was a loved husband, father, poppa and friend. He was taken far soon from us because of a brain tumour.

I know that my family is not alone in our grief and desire to see the brain cancer survival rate improved. We decided to organise a walk through the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation to bring together our community and raise much needed funds for research into the causes and treatments and ultimately to find a cure for brain cancer. Close to 100 members of our community came out and supported our walk. So far our efforts have raised \$7,235. To everyone who walked and donated, including locals and beachgoers who got involved on the day, a huge heartfelt thank you.

Walk for a Cure allowed so many to connect and I met so many beautiful people and heard their stories. Bianca lost her six-year-old son, Slater, after he was diagnosed at six months with brain cancer. Slater was a warrior for the cause, raising enormous amounts of money for brain cancer while he battled the disease. Bianca walked to continue his legacy. I met Kim, a mum of four diagnosed with a GBM brain tumour who recently underwent treatment, and I met Rachael, diagnosed at 28 years of age, not long after her baby was born. Rachael walked to raise funds for research for a cure because she wants to live to see her son grow up.

I want to thank all the volunteers who generously gave of their time to make our walk happen: my family, Sue Hudson, Jenna and Tim Fearnley, Elyssa Hudson and James Hudson; my wonderful staff, Kate, Josie and Bronte and their own families, including Kate's mum, Pauline, and the fantastic youth member for Currumbin, Olivia Watkins, who all helped with the organisation and running of the event; Taylor Birchnell and Zac Revere who also helped on the bbq; Naomi Watson who joined us as our first aid officer; and the wonderful Rainbow Bay Surf Life Saving Club for supporting us with the BBQ equipment. Without these beautiful people and the time they gave to the walk the event would not have happened and it would not have run smoothly.

We organised marathon bibs so that people could write on the bibs who they were walking for, whether it be for themselves or for their loved one that they have lost or just for a cure. It allowed everyone to connect and allowed everyone to share their stories and feel supported during a very difficult time. A lot of people are suffering with grief and loss. Overall it was such a beautiful day and we hope to make it an annual event, bringing our community together and advocating to give hope and time to those young and old suffering with brain cancer.