




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Algester Electorate, Community Organisations

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (8.51 pm): The Algester electorate is home to some incredible local organisations that do so much for our community. In the last couple of months I have been reminded of just how tough the last few years have been for everyone and how vital having strong community organisations really is. At the peak of the necessary COVID restrictions, and now as families face cost-of-living pressures, it is frontline community organisations that have been there to lend an ear, provide advice and support, distribute food and other necessities, and facilitate much needed services.

I have had the privilege of working with a number of community organisations across the Algester electorate over the past seven years—organisations like *Belong*, which runs the neighbourhood and community centre in Acacia Ridge. Over more than 30 years under different banners it has been delivering support across the Acacia Ridge area. *Belong* offers food relief, emergency financial assistance and community support workers and it also provides community spaces for local groups. Their motto is ‘helping others grow and learn together’, which is just what they do. They were a fundamental support service during the height of COVID and continue to provide important supports to many across the community. *Belong* recently announced a partnership with *Community Queensland*, a larger NGO based in Brisbane, to help strengthen their organisation and their future. I recently met with Christine Grosse, the CEO of *Belong*, and Karen Dare from *Community Queensland* to hear all about their exciting plans for the centre and how they will further develop services for the community.

The Algester Parkinson Lions, of which I am a member, also serves our community by working closely with many school and community groups and is a very well known and appreciated group within the Algester electorate and beyond. The executive and the member volunteers are simply amazing. I want to give a quick shout-out to Di Henderson, Brian Philipson, Des O’Brien, Robyn Bergmansons and all the Algester Parkinson Lions, who help others and bring our community together.

Open Hands Community Care at Pallara is a relatively new charity, formed in 2008, that delivers a range of community-based initiatives to support people regardless of their cultural or social background, gender or race. From low-cost groceries to approved community care, the people who work with Open Hands are always ready with a smile on their face. I recently met with co-founder Sherifaye Jalloh and operations lead officer Pule Salafi, who shared their plans for expansion of their Pallara site. Their food drive is currently underway, and I was pleased to provide sponsorship for 10 essential goods hampers that will go to families in need.

Of course, we continue to see many organisations that do an incredible amount of work across the Algester electorate. This is what makes the Algester electorate a place where people love to live and a place that I am incredibly proud to represent.

While I am on my feet, I do want to acknowledge all of the First Nations peoples across the country who are experiencing sorry business right now. It is an extremely sad time, when you see some of the things that are happening in other states.