




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Project Red Socks

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (7.14 pm): I rise this evening to speak about something that is very close to my heart—that is, Project Red Socks. I hope that everyone has received a pair of red socks that we have distributed in the chamber.

Mr Healy: I was wondering where they came from.

Mr STEWART: They are from me. I encourage everyone to wear these socks in the chamber tomorrow if they can. The other thing I ask is that members take a photo wearing them and post it on their social media.

This is about prostate awareness. September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. It is timely given it will soon be Father's Day. If people are not over the age of 50 then they have a great pair of red socks that they can give to their dad as a Father's Day present. With it comes an absolute commitment that they need to go and get checked.

This is about the early detection of prostate cancer. This is about going to get the blood test done. If people go and get that done then early detection could save their life. For us old blokes who are over the age of 50 we should be getting tested every year. If people have a partner who is over 50 then they should be getting tested every year. If they have an uncle, dad, son or brother they need to be tested. These red socks sitting in the drawer are a reminder to either get tested or to remind one's significant other to go and get tested. That is why these bright red socks are bright red.

It is imperative that we recognise that early detection can save lives. We know that one in nine males in Australia will get prostate cancer, but early detection will help save lives. Just to give members an indicator, my dad died from prostate cancer, his dad died from prostate cancer and my mum's dad died from prostate cancer. Given genetics, I think I am a pretty good chance of lining up and being diagnosed at some time in my life so I get tested every six months. It is not something that I like talking about. I do not like mixing politics and family. I am usually a pretty private bloke who keeps that sort of thing private. This is about making sure that every person in this House who has these red socks gets tested or makes sure others around them are tested. It could save someone's life.

The socks are from Townsville Rotary. A lot of members have supported me and worn them in the past. I thank you so much. I hope you continue to support this great cause.