




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Beyond DV, HOPE Hub

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.09 pm): I rise this evening to acknowledge the people and organisations who have come together to create a new and innovative response to domestic and family violence in the Chatsworth electorate and beyond. As a member of parliament I am privileged to meet many inspiring people, and the highlight for me was meeting a woman by the name of Carolyn Robinson. I met Carolyn a few years ago, when she established an organisation in my electorate called Beyond DV. As a result of a lived experience supporting a loved one through a domestic violence situation, it sparked a fire within her to start an organisation and create programs to help women and children rebuild their lives following domestic violence. Fast-forward to now, and Carolyn and the team at Beyond DV have pioneered incredible change in their response to family and domestic violence. They have created many one-of-a-kind programs for women and children to rebuild after experiencing domestic violence and have also launched educational programs such as their Love & Learn Teen app, which aims to educate young women and men on healthy relationships and what they look like.

Last week I was honoured to attend the opening of Beyond DV's latest concept, the HOPE Hub, located in the heart of the Chatsworth electorate at Westfield Carindale. This new space is incredibly powerful as it creates a safe and discreet place for women and children to access vital information, referrals and support when escaping domestic violence. During the opening ceremony we heard firsthand the positive impacts that programs like this can have. Cathy, for example, a survivor of domestic violence, gave an inspiring insight into how the support and empowerment from Beyond DV has enabled her to rebuild her life and achieve major goals. It is incredible what can be accomplished when the community comes together.

A huge thank you goes to Westfield Carindale for partnering with Beyond DV on this project and the suppliers, contractors and retailers who donated goods and services to get this hub up and running. A mention must also go to Lady Mayoress Nina Schrinner and the Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust for a \$30,000 grant towards furnishing the hub, and the state government, which has funded an employee to work within the space. This is a great example of various levels of government working together to achieve a common goal.

To Carolyn, her husband, Craig, the Beyond DV staff and board members: thank you for all that you have done in making this a reality. It is amazing to see this concept come to life after only about eight months. Although it is sad that places like the HOPE Hub even need to exist, I am so pleased that there is now another place for women and children to reach out to during their darkest times, to have a safe and accessible place to go when they are at their lowest—a network to support them and to give them hope. On behalf of the Chatsworth community, I thank everyone who has contributed to this important program. Domestic and family violence is a scourge on society.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): They are indeed a wonderful organisation.