




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Chatsworth Electorate, Crime Prevention

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.50 pm): I rise this evening to thank both community members and local police representatives who attended a recent crime prevention forum that I hosted at the Gumdale Progress Association Hall. Representatives from across the Chatsworth electorate contributed to the conversation with the common theme of keeping our local communities safe. Residents shared both their experiences and concerns as to local break and enters, car thefts and juvenile crime. A big thankyou to Senior Sergeant Glenn Vidler and Senior Constable Brendon Winslow for their comprehensive overview of crime statistics in the area and valuable tips on how to protect your property. With the holiday season fast approaching, the forum was a timely reminder to lock up securely and report any incidents or suspicious activity to Policelink immediately. One very important tip was to get to know your neighbours and keep an eye out for each other. It is so important we all work together to keep our local community safe.

On that note, I wish to pay tribute to an outstanding community member in the Chatsworth electorate, Col DeVantier. A scholar and a gentleman, Col was held in high regard by those he served, both as a former headmaster and through his dedication to the community. Sadly, after retiring in 2021 and as Carina 1 Neighbourhood Watch Area Coordinator for 30 years, Col passed away on 1 September after a fall. He was aged 97 years. When Camp Hill 1 Neighbourhood Watch was launched centre stage at Carindale Shopping Centre, Col was asked to be the area coordinator. While other Neighbourhood Watch groups formed and sadly disbanded, Carina 1 Neighbourhood Watch stood the test of time under Col's guidance, distributing 6,000 newsletters a year to over 1,100 households. Even COVID did not slow Col's dedication and enthusiasm to ensure his local community remained informed and safe via his column, Col's Corner. This column will remain a front-page feature in his memory.

It was suspected that he always intended to send a letter to the late Queen for her 100th birthday in exchange for one of his own. Unfortunately, neither letter will now be exchanged. On behalf of the Chatsworth electorate, my sincere condolences to Denys, Russell, Wendy and their families. Col will be greatly missed by all who knew him. It is citizens such as Col who are the backbone of our local communities. I know from the large turnout at the recent crime prevention forum that his good work will continue within the Chatsworth community with neighbours watching out for each other.

I have always said that one of the first responsibilities of any state government is the safety of its citizens. However, one of the best things you can do to assist with home security is to simply get to know the neighbour on either side of where you live wherever possible. I am very proud and honoured to serve the Chatsworth community, and I want to take this moment to also thank the men and women who don the blue uniform of the Queensland Police Service and thank them for what they do each and every day.

