




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Aspley Electorate, Sporting Clubs

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.07 pm): As we fast approach a new winter sporting season, I would like to briefly reflect on the wonderful sporting organisations in my electorate of Aspley. At junior level, many local north side families are currently taking advantage of the Palaszczuk government's FairPlay vouchers, which provide up to \$150 for sport and active recreation. This is a great example of how government is assisting families with cost-of-living pressures. These vouchers are being redeemed across the north side including at clubs such as Aspley Devils Junior Rugby League who provide pathways for boys and girls from three years of age via the Little Devils program all the way through to NRL and NRLW level through their partnership with the Broncos.

The Devils is a fantastic local club. Those players have benefited from training at our \$9 million sports precinct, which was opened a couple of years back. That was made possible through our Carseldine Urban Village, which everyone seems to be coming around to now that it is open and the community is using it. There were plenty at various levels of government on the other side of politics who bagged it at every turn, but now that it is open the community is using it every day. We can really see the benefit there.

The Aspley Hornets continue to grow and recently played host to a training session and intraclub game for the Lions as they embark on a new AFL season. As the QAFL premiers, the Hornets return to Graham Road to start their title defence and the women's team continues to inspire the record number of junior girls who are forming a love of the game. Of course, just a few years ago I secured funding for their upgraded lighting, which helps them train more safely and to a higher level. It also enables them to play night games to the relevant standard where they need to and to reduce their energy costs.

Increased player numbers can put pressure on our local clubs and volunteers. I was pleased last week to assist the Aspley Vipers Netball Club with the purchase of 16 first-aid kits for use on their training nights at Aspley State School and on game days. I thank president Rebecca, vice-president James and all of the volunteers for all they do for netball clubs across the region.

I am pleased to say that the new home of basketball on the north side, the Northside Indoor Sports Centre, will host the NBL1 season for the men's and women's teams of the Northside Wizards this coming season.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr MELLISH: I take that interjection from the member for Sandgate. The men's team have some fantastic recruits in DJ Mitchell and Lual Diing from the Brisbane Bullets, and the women's team have reigning league MVP Tiana Mangakahia. It will be fantastic to see basketball home at Zillmere. This building was a disused shed in 2015 and 2016. We took ownership of it, took some initiative and created new courts that are used seven nights a week. They would be used eight nights a week if they could

be! It is an absolutely outstanding facility; it has really rejuvenated that part of Zillmere. We have the Jabiru Community College next door. It is a fantastic initiative. It is a great precinct, and I cannot wait to continue going there to see more fantastic games in the future.