




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Algester Electorate, Community Groups

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (7.04 pm): I rise tonight to praise the important community groups in the Algester electorate that are building networks and every day work to support each other and the community more broadly. This month is Queensland Seniors Month. It is also Probus Month. I had the chance to catch up with the local Probus Club of Algester and Districts. They have a jam-packed October calendar head of them. The executive and I were able to have a wonderful morning tea. We talked a lot about the almost 100-strong members of that Probus club. As many members in this chamber know, Probus clubs are a fantastic way to connect people who otherwise might be at risk of experiencing loneliness as they grow in age.

I am also proud of many other groups that work incredibly hard in the electorate of Algester such as the Greenbank RSL and Algester men's sheds that have been busy not only helping each of its members build on new and improved skills but also creating an environment of valuable social connection. I visited both those men's sheds in recent weeks. The Algester Men's Shed is now expanding their opportunities and activities to women, which has been very interesting.

I also had the pleasure of visiting the two new YMCA vocational school campuses, both based in my electorate of Algester. The YMCA vocational schools bring an incredible benefit to students by offering an alternative learning environment structured around fostering confidence in young people while developing their practical and personal skills. In Acacia Ridge students from years 7 to 9 are supported by teachers, youth workers, case workers and counsellors. I thank head of campus Tash for showing me around the campus and introducing me to some of the incredible students who are making some real inroads in terms of their learning outcomes. I also had the opportunity to have a look at the new facilities at the YMCA vocational school campus in Parkinson. They are continuing to foster outcomes for years 10 to 12, where they bring the same nurturing care to ensure these young people are ready for adulthood.

I would also like to take this opportunity to talk about the choice all of us have to make on 14 October. It is a profound and transformational point in our history. It is a very important time. I am calling on everybody to ensure we maintain respectful conversations around this very important decision as Australia looks to make a decision about whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be recognised in our constitution.