




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

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ADJOURNMENT

Stanley, Mr P

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (4.46 pm): I rise to pay tribute to Paul Stanley who sadly passed away on Thursday, 20 April. Paul became well known through his work with the Matthew Stanley Foundation to fight youth crime after the death of his son Matthew. In 2006 the evening news reported on the death of Matthew Stanley after a violent coward's punch attack at a party in Alexandra Hills. Matthew received a cowardly punch to the head which caused him to fall to the ground unconscious. I recall it on TV at the time and, having a son the same age as Matthew, this tragedy impacted greatly on me and my family. Any parent of a teenager knows the feeling of waiting up for them to come home at night. News of Matthew's death significantly impacted us and has been talked about many times in our family home.

In 2009, as the member for Cleveland, I had the privilege to meet Paul. Despite their grief and the impact that Matthew's tragic death had on their family, Paul and his wife, Kay, established the Matthew Stanley Foundation and the Walk Away Chill Out campaign. The aim of the Matthew Stanley Foundation is to end youth violence and to educate and raise awareness of the danger of coward punch attacks. As Paul often said, education is the answer to it all. Paul dedicated his life and the years following Matthew's death to working with police and the Ambulance Service, schools, churches and community groups to spread the antiviolence message to students. Paul's campaigning and relentless passion saw him speak to hundreds of schools across the state over multiple years to share Matthew's story.

The One Punch Can Kill and Walk Away Chill Out campaigns had a profound impact. Paul's presentations were unique and powerful. Often teachers would get in touch with him after a presentation to ask, 'How did you get through to them?' Matthew's story and Paul's raw and emotional presentation significantly impacted all those who heard it. Paul's philosophy was if one life was saved it was worth it. Paul lived in Thornlands running a flooring business prior to moving to Bundaberg. Paul closed his business to devote the majority of his time to travelling around the state and sharing his story.

It was my privilege to get to know Paul on a personal level. His passion to end youth violence was second to none and the impact he has had on youth over the last 17 years will be felt for decades to come. With the current youth crime crisis we face we sorely need more champions to call for change. Paul, thank you for all you have done and the legacy you leave behind. We pay tribute to you today. May you rest in peace. Vale, Paul Stanley.