




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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ADJOURNMENT

Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.13 pm): Last Friday I had the privilege of attending the Broadbeach State School's celebration of the life of Ryley Kemp. Ryley was a student of the school who passed away in March of this year from a rare cancer disease of the brain called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, or DIPG. Ryley will be forever eight years old.

Ryley's short life should be seen as an inspiration to us all in the way he fought this horrible disease with a bright and positive attitude that endeared him to his fellow students, the school staff and all who met him—so much so that, as a dedicated follower of the Gold Coast Suns AFL team, Ryley was honoured by the Suns. They officially made him Sun No. 39, to his absolute delight. Ryley's parents, Beau and Terry, have been incredibly stoic throughout their painstaking journey, and their memories of Ryley will ensure he stays alive with them for the rest of their lives.

To honour the memory of Ryley, Beau and Terry have embarked on a fundraising venture to find a cure for, or to prevent, this horrible disease called DIPG. To that end, last Friday's celebration of Ryley's life was a fundraiser for the charity Run DIPG to help other families impacted by this childhood cancer. Broadbeach State School came out in their hundreds to support the fundraiser and there was a fantastic roll-up of Suns players. This shows they are a great community sporting team who are more than happy to share their sporting success with remarkable community spirit. The growth in the community heart of the Suns reflects the mighty heart of player No. 39, Ryley the brave.

There were superheros, vintage car buffs, multiple game challenges, Pilates—I did not get involved with that—and face painting. Everybody there had a great time. Principal Mr Bruce Langes, his ever diligent sidekick Mr Wayne Jenks and their compassionate and caring student council must be congratulated on their moving and responsive organisation of a special day for Ryley the brave.

I am sure it was just the start of the fundraising journey for Beau and Terry, as I know they are off to Canberra to seek further help from the federal health minister. I sincerely hope that further help is forthcoming from the federal government, with that body having the greatest access to funding of all three levels of government.

This horrible disease is a national problem that cannot be ignored. I urge anyone who can assist Beau and Terry on their fundraising journey in any way to contact my office. Finally, I encourage everyone to dig deep for DIPG to help alleviate the suffering of families inflicted with this debilitating disease.