




Speech By
Hon. Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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ADJOURNMENT

Jordan Electorate, Mater Chicks in Pink Springfield Walk

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.03 pm): This coming Sunday there will be a sea of pink in Greater Springfield. I am so proud to be supporting Mater Health Services to lead an International Women's Day Fun Run in our local community in support of Mater Chicks in Pink. The Brisbane International Women's Day Fun Run has been a much loved event for over 30 years and has grown to record crowds of 20,000 at the 2023 event. In fact, this year's Brisbane CBD fun run has sold out so I am pleased that we will be able to run and walk in Springfield to raise funds towards lifesaving breast cancer research as well as support and services for breast cancer patients at Mater hospitals across Queensland. This includes those patients at the Mater Cancer Care Centre in Springfield.

I recently met the incredible Maria Jenner, a local Brookwater mum. Less than 12 months ago, Maria was handed a shock breast cancer diagnosis. After discovering a hard lump measuring about three centimetres in her left breast last April, Maria was diagnosed with stage 2 HER2-positive breast cancer—a fast-growing form of invasive breast cancer affecting one in five women. Maria underwent 17 rounds of chemotherapy and a double mastectomy to fight the disease. I am very pleased to say that Maria is now cancer free. As she has said, a positive attitude, support from family, friends and colleagues, as well as being able to receive treatment close to home were beneficial to her recovery.

Having the Mater Cancer Care Centre through the Mater Private Hospital in Springfield has been an absolute godsend for so many. In fact there have been more than 1,000 patients there actively in treatment, including immunotherapy, monoclonal antibodies, hormone therapy, chemotherapy and supportive or palliative care. For those receiving treatment who live in our community, I regularly hear how allowing them to receive treatment locally, with minimal travel, has led to less stress and worry during their most challenging times. It is why this event on Sunday is so important to me and our community because it will provide a platform to raise funds for these services and to honour those affected by breast cancer. I am pleased to say that, whilst we will not have 20,000 on the day, over 150 locals have now registered to participate, which is absolutely amazing given this is the very first year we have organised this local event.

A number of local businesses and organisations have also come on board. I wish to thank Springfield Lakes IGA, The Cheesecake Shop in Springfield, The Skin Sanctuary at Brookwater and the Goodna Redbank Plains Girl Guides, who will be on the barbecue doing the sausage sizzle. The five-kilometre run and walk will set off from the Mater Private Hospital and will end at the brand new Mater Health Hub where there will be food and entertainment. I am hopeful that through this event we can make significant strides towards advancing breast cancer research, improving patient outcomes and ultimately finding a cure. Whilst fundraising goals may vary for each participant, every contribution, no matter how small, makes a difference in the fight against breast cancer.