




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (7.49 pm): As the state member for Moggill and the shadow minister for education, I rise to acknowledge the Kokoda Youth Foundation, which is an outstanding Queensland-based charity that is transforming the lives of young Queenslanders. Founded in 2004 by Vietnam veteran Doug Henderson OAM and wife, Anna, the Kokoda Youth Foundation enhances the lives of young Australians aged 12 to 18 years through adventure-based self-development programs. These programs foster resilience, accountability and civic responsibility whilst, importantly, honouring the legacy of the Kokoda campaign. One such endeavour is the On The Right Track program, which partners with selected state schools to engage at-risk year 8 and 9 students. Over six months, students who participate develop essential life skills, self-belief, discipline and teamwork skills and, in doing so, foster success in education and overall adolescent development.

At a time when social media and mobile device use is a significant issue for young Queenslanders, the Kokoda Youth Foundation also provides a holistic nine-day Digital Detox Program during school holidays to combat the negative impact of technology with other e-safety and self-development workshops.

For 19 years now, the Kokoda Youth Foundation has offered life-changing youth programs free of charge to the public, with the Kokoda Youth Foundation being predominantly self-funded through fundraising and by teams participating in Kokoda Challenge endurance events which are held across South-East Queensland. I am immensely proud that the Brisbane Kokoda Challenge is hosted within the electorate of Moggill on an annual basis. It commences at the Brookfield Recreation Reserve and continues from there throughout the D'Aguilar National Park. It was an honour to join with thousands of local residents and participants on 1 June 2024 as they set off on the 18-, 30- and 48-kilometre endurance events.

I wish to particularly acknowledge the outstanding community and organisational support that is provided by the Moggill electorate for the Brisbane Kokoda Challenge including our local Moggill Group SES, the Brookfield Pony Club, the Kenmore-Moggill RSL Sub Branch via Lieutenant Colonel Rick Maher as well as local members and veterans including James Darby and Marcus Woehrle and members of the Kenmore 108 Army Cadet Unit.

On the subject of the Kenmore 108 Army Cadet Unit, I acknowledge Captain Richard Ponsonby and other members of the 108 Army Cadet Unit. Last night the 108 Army Cadet Unit hosted its recruit graduation parade, and this unit continues to go from strength to strength.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the wonderful efforts of the Bellbowrie Men's Shed, which recently hosted a local event to raise funds for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. I was delighted to support this event, and I wish to extend my congratulations to Peter Dent and all Bellbowrie Men's Shed members on their important fundraising efforts. Finally, last weekend the annual Brookfield Harvest was held. It is a great opportunity for local fundraising whilst also supporting our agriculture sectors. Congratulations to Al Harvey and his team of volunteers on their successful event.