




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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ADJOURNMENT

Motor Neurone Disease

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (7.03 pm): I rise to speak tonight about a devastating disease that affects many people in Queensland and around the world—motor neurone disease, or MND. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the challenges faced by those people living with MND and the importance of continuing to support research initiatives into finding a cure for this horrendous disease. Motor neurone disease is a progressive neurological condition that attacks the nerve cells responsible for controlling voluntary muscles. As the disease progresses, individuals with MND experience muscle weakness, paralysis and difficulty with speech, swallowing and even breathing. There is no current known cure for MND, and the average life expectancy after diagnosis is just two to five years.

In Queensland, there are approximately 450 people living with MND at any given time. These individuals and their families face immense physical, emotional and financial challenges as they navigate life with this devastating disease in Queensland. The impact of MND is not limited to the individual diagnosed but also extends to their loved ones, caregivers and their support networks.

It is crucial we continue to raise awareness about MND in Queensland and support those living with this terrible disease. By increasing public understanding of MND and its effects, we can help reduce stigma, improve access to services and enhance the quality of life for individuals and their families affected by this condition.

In addition to raising awareness, we must also prioritise funding for research into MND. The search for a cure and effective treatments for MND is ongoing, and it is essential that we invest in scientific research and clinical trials to advance our knowledge and find new therapies for this disease. By supporting research initiatives aimed at understanding the underlying causes of MND and developing target treatments, we can bring hope to those affected by this devastating condition.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible work done by such organisations as MND Queensland, a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing support and resources to individuals living with MND and their families. Through their advocacy, education and fundraising efforts, MND Queensland is making a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by this disease.

I urge each of you here tonight to consider how you can contribute to the fight against MND in your communities. Whether through volunteering, raising money or advocating for increased research funding, there are many ways to support those living with this debilitating condition. Together we can work towards a future where MND is no longer a death sentence and where all individuals living with this disease receive the care, support and hope that they deserve. Thank you for your attention to this tonight and let us continue to strive for a world free from motor neurone disease.