



Speech By  
**Robert Skelton**


**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2024

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS**

**SES Volunteers; Rudder, Ms M**

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (2.46 pm): I rise to acknowledge the state's volunteers. As mentioned by the member for Redlands, there are many different things that we can volunteer for. I acknowledge that yesterday was Wear Orange Wednesday and I want to thank all of our great SES volunteers across the nation and, indeed, the state. I will specifically talk about the Sunshine Coast.

The electorate of Nicklin is uniquely placed in that its constituents support two SES units—Noosa and the Sunshine Coast. Known as SES sheds, local SES groups are located at Cooroy, out west at Kenilworth, at Maleny and at Nambour. They have been around for nearly 40 years. Constituents of the Nicklin electorate make up nearly a third of all of the volunteers in the Noosa and the Sunshine Coast units—107 out of a total of 340. They respond to local, regional, intrastate and even interstate emergencies by performing storm damage operations and search-and-rescue services by land, air and waterways. Our local volunteers have a wide breadth of experience and backgrounds. Many have families, work full- or part-time or study. They do a fantastic job and not just in times of need. Whenever we have an event like Anzac Day or school fetes, it is always the SES volunteers who marshal traffic and clean up. They are fantastic.

I take this opportunity to talk about one of those volunteers. Meg Rudder is a local who epitomises the SES community spirit. Meg has served the community as an SES member for more than 26 years. She has been the group leader at the Nambour and districts shed for over 12 years. She has been there in times of flood and fire and during the clean-up after tropical cyclones Yasi and Larry. Meg now faces one of the greatest challenges of her life, and we are looking to the community to help return that support.

Tragically Meg has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. While she is fighting it with everything she has, she is unable to take care of some of the things that would help with day-to-day life. Meg's home needs repairs and a call-out to the community is being made to help fix heavy water damage and make bathroom repairs. Those repairs are needed to bring Meg's home back to a livable standard. I ask everyone in the community to get behind Meg. If you can contribute, Meg's closest friends have established a GoFundMe page. I will post the link to my social media.