



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Base Services, Homeless for a Week; Winter Shelter**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.52 pm): Despite this Labor government causing a cost-of-living crisis and a housing crisis in my community of Toowoomba, there is great hope. Base Services and Tiff Spary, who runs Base Services, do a fantastic job with the homeless in our community. They arrange a sleep-out every year in the middle of winter and they get a massive number of participants, all to raise money. They do not receive any government funding but they do bring great hope to our community. They provide over 500 meals a week, 50 weeks of the year to people who are homeless during the day. They have wraparound services and other community groups that come in which they coordinate people with. They unfortunately have been seeing new faces and more and more families coming in to use their services.

If you go online and have a look at Base Services, Homeless for a Week, can you make a donation? They are trying to raise a million dollars. They have raised \$370,000 out of the great community of Toowoomba. I just want to note a group of young primary school locals, Tucker, Charlotte, Max, Caitlin and Cameron, who have raised over \$10,500 themselves. Charlotte is the second top individual fundraiser overall, with \$3,100 so far. It is a great service for a great community. They are looking after people who find themselves down on their luck. I was privileged to spend the night sleeping out with them. I do it every year with Nat.

This year he took me to Winter Shelter, which is a project that brings together seven different local faith communities. They open up their facilities so people can have a bed for the night. It is a different service each night and they rotate through. They provide beds, free meals, a caring community and support services. It was a real privilege for me to go and see that. That operates for 91 nights through June and August. I had the real privilege of meeting Clayton, a former client. He was homeless. He went along to the Winter Shelter and met people who got him some wraparound services. He started to put his life on a different trajectory, and now he volunteers for the Winter Shelter trying to help other people get a bed for the night. It is pretty cold in Toowoomba. The 'fridge on the ridge' they call it this time of the year, so homeless people suffer terribly. Having these faith services provide the Winter Shelter gives people a fantastic opportunity to have a bed for the night, be warm and get a meal. Most importantly, they can see that the community actually cares for them and is willing to try to help them and partner with them to get their lives back together and on a different trajectory, because this Labor government certainly is not.