




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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ADJOURNMENT

Care Goondiwindi

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (9.21 pm): I rise to inform the House of a wonderful organisation in my electorate, Care Goondiwindi. I know as members in this House we would all be familiar with organisations in our electorates that provide wonderful community services. Invariably they are run by the community for the community. That seems to be the best formula for providing the care and support that the vulnerable in our communities need.

Care Goondiwindi provides a number of community services, but the number of services they provide has been constrained to some extent because of growth in demand and growth in the complexity of providing these services. They are in their third location since I came to know them when I first became the member for Southern Downs. They provide community development services, community justice, disability services and respite, crisis relief, financial resilience support, Indigenous parenting programs, rural family services and youth access. Previously they have offered legal services and provided more services for vulnerable youth and their families to ensure they have the best possible start in life and to keep them away from crime.

As the community is aware, the government passed a second tranche of its Making Queensland Safer laws.

Mrs Poole: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: I take that acknowledgement from my honourable friend the member for Mundubberra. We have been very keen to make sure that there are consequences for actions and that those who offend against the community are locked up if necessary to keep the community safe. We also have emphasised the importance of early intervention and support—decisive early intervention and support—and the obvious choice for an organisation to deliver those services in somewhere like Goondiwindi is Care Goondiwindi. In order to grow their services they need more space.

I am very pleased and grateful to the government for the announcement of \$2 million for Care Goondiwindi to acquire land for a new community centre and to finance a business case and a detailed design for what they need. Minister Amanda Camm came out to Goondiwindi not long ago and announced that we have brought forward that funding—the Deputy Premier has just sat beside me; I am sure he had something to do with that, so I thank you, sir—so that Care Goondiwindi can get cracking. There is not very much suitable land in Goondiwindi. There is certainly no land other than the one site that is left that they need to secure to build on, and the vendor had his tongue hanging out for a sale. We have been able to secure that thanks to the Crisafulli government, so I want to thank Minister Camm and no doubt the Treasurer, David Janetzki, for finding that funding for us in difficult times. I wish Care Goondiwindi very well and you can expect that I will continue to advocate for it and tell the wonderful stories of what it does in this House whenever I can.