




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Skin Cancer Prevention

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.12 pm): My bayside is a wonderful place to live. We walk along the esplanade from Wynnum down to Manly and Lota. Our children play in Whale Park and swim in the historic wading pool. We play Rugby and ride our bikes along the esplanade. However, alongside its natural beauty comes a serious health risk. Data from the Australian Cancer Atlas reveals that Brisbane's bayside community has some of the highest melanoma diagnosis rates in the country. In fact, Wynnum melanoma rates are 57 per cent higher and in Manly-Lota the figures are even more confronting, being 93 per cent higher than the Australian average. That makes it the third highest in Australia.

Melanoma is the second most common cancer diagnosed in Queenslanders. It is one of the most serious forms of cancer because of its potential to spread rapidly if not detected early. Importantly, most cases are preventable. Simple steps can save lives. That is why I was so pleased to join forces with the Queensland Cancer Council last Sunday to launch my local Bayside Sunsafes program. We spoke to hundreds of locals about the risks and prevention and handed out over 600 bottles of SPF50+ sunscreen. Our message was clear and practical: slip on protective clothing, slop on SPF50+ sunscreen, slap on a broadbrimmed hat, seek shade wherever possible and slide on wraparound sunglasses. These five steps—slip, slop, slap, seek, slide—remain the most effective protection against harmful UV radiation. Equally vital is early detection. I encourage all baysiders to regularly check their skin and to see their doctor if they notice a new or changing mole, freckle or lump or a sore that does not heal after a few weeks. The earlier melanoma is detected, the greater the chance of successful treatment.

The campaign is not about politics. This Atlas data is equally shocking for the Redcliffe and Redlands areas, communities represented by members opposite. Melanoma does not recognise LNP blue or Labor red. A melanoma mole can be any colour: brown, black, blue, pink or white. They are the colours we should all be worried about. I hope the member for Mermaid Beach is listening to this. He seems to enjoy interjecting on me all the time so perhaps he might learn a lesson. This is about awareness, education and protecting the health of our communities. I encourage all members on both sides to consider similar awareness campaigns in their electorates.

The Cancer Council of Queensland, together with QUT, has developed the Australian Cancer Atlas, which provides localised cancer data that can be tailored to each community. I encourage all members to reach out to the Cancer Council and use this resource to inform and protect their constituents. Given those opposite have defunded the melanoma awareness program by \$2.1 million, we need to step in and lead local education programs.

(Time expired)