




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Belas, Mr S

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.12 pm): Tonight I rise to speak about a legend of the QEII Jubilee Hospital, Stan Belas, whose dedication, generosity and resolute spirit has had a large impact on the QEII Hospital and the countless lives within it. Many years ago, Stan suffered a stroke, an event that changed his life. During his rehabilitation of 13 months at the QEII Hospital, he experienced firsthand the kindness, care and support of the great hospital staff. Stan was eternally grateful and still is. Since then, Stan has been giving back to the institution that gave so much to him.

For 25 years, Stan has been the heart and soul of the QEII volunteer program. His commitment to this institute is nothing short of remarkable. Stan runs yearly raffles at the hospital and he always has multiple prizes—signed football jerseys, a trailer full of goodies and other interesting items, to name but a few. Stan always greets everyone with a smile and a hello, hoping that they will buy a raffle ticket from him, of course.

His tireless efforts have transformed the QEII Hospital into more than just a medical facility—it is a place of warmth, motivation and healing. Thanks to Stan's fundraising, patients and their families can enjoy landscaped gardens; outdoor seating; a new large outside deck area for palliative care with a barbecue and a vertical garden; and an Indigenous healing ground garden. Stan's latest venture is at the front of the hospital but, unfortunately, a car park is being built there so Stan's Queen Elizabeth roses have to take a back seat for a short time. Stan has promised everyone that he will reinvigorate the garden once the car park is completed.

What truly sets Stan apart is not just what he does; it is who he is. He is a humble man, never seeking recognition and always crediting others. It is only fitting that such a generous person receives an appropriate tribute. Late last year, as part of the QEII Hospital expansion project, over 100 staff and volunteers cast their votes in the 'Name the Cranes' competition. The clear winner was Stan. One of the four cranes bound for QEII this year will be proudly flying high this legend's name, Stan.