




Speech By  
**Hon. Steve Minnikin**  
**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Chris' IGA Carina**

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (9.09 pm): I would like to share an incredible story about a small family business in Chatsworth—Chris' IGA in Carina. Founded 70 years ago by Chris Nicolaou, this small general store was the only supermarket in the area until Westfield Carindale opened in 1979. It is no small feat for any business to remain operational for seven decades, and this remarkable achievement reflects the exceptional customer service Chris' IGA continues to provide to the locals of Chatsworth each and every day. Since opening the store in 1955, Chris brought his family on board and through hard work and tireless hours Chris' IGA has prospered into the icon it is today.

What makes Chris' IGA even more remarkable is the fact that the next generation of the Nicolaou family has continued the tradition of excellence, ensuring Chris's legacy lives on. Chris's son, Nick, now heads the business and his grandson Grayson is also part of the team. The family's passion for providing outstanding customer service has been passed down through the generations, and this is a testament to the strength and resilience of this small family-owned business.

Chris' IGA has played a significant role in supporting not only the local community but also the local economy. Chris' IGA has always been at the forefront of customer service. In the 1970s, I remember my mother coming home from Chris' IGA with grocery bags, knowing that there would be special little treats at the bottom of one of the bags thrown in for free. This kind of personal touch and generosity has set Chris' IGA apart and made it beloved by so many over the years.

I have known Nick since my school days at Carina State School and I can attest to his strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit—characteristics imperative to the survival of Queensland's small business sector. Nick's dedication to excellence in customer service is reflected in the entire Chris' IGA team, who embody the core values of good customer service through their dedication and teamwork. During the recent weather event that was ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the team from Chris' IGA were making deliveries to local homes when all other stores in the area had closed. They were not going to let a little old cyclone stand in the way of ensuring that the people in the community were looked after.

Recently I had the honour of presenting Chris' IGA Carina with a Customer Service Excellence Award in recognition of their 70 years of outstanding contribution to our community. This award serves as a small token of appreciation for the immense positive impact that Chris' IGA at Carina have had on the local area. Their story is a prime example of how small family businesses can thrive and adapt through dedication, hard work and a customer-first mindset. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Nicolaou family for their generosity of spirit and for the vital role that Chris' IGA play in the local community. Congratulations again to Nick and the rest of his team on this fantastic business milestone, and happy 70th birthday to Chris' IGA Carina.