




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE**

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.19 pm): From weekend sports to supporting homeless people in our community, festivals, schools, P&Cs and helping after floods, volunteers do it all and they are an integral part of our community. They jump into action to help others and they provide support so people can stay resilient in times of need. For volunteers, their work is more than just an exercise in generosity; it is community building. They ensure that our communities are a better place to live. Volunteers understand that community is stronger when people work together.

Volunteer organisations build social connections, tackle loneliness and remind us of the importance of supporting one another. Most importantly, when people step forward to give their time, energy and compassion, they do it in exchange for nothing—not even recognition. They do it because they care. However, volunteers do deserve recognition. Whether they are keeping our local sports clubs operating, or providing food, clothes and support to those in need, or supporting our emergency services, they all play a critical role in our community that too often goes unnoticed. I would like to take this time to acknowledge some of the volunteers in my electorate of Sandgate.

Firstly, I want to talk about the team at Sandbag. Sandbag is a community-based organisation which helps create opportunities for connection, participation and support. They do vital work in the Sandgate and Bracken Ridge area to support victim-survivors of family and domestic violence. The passion and care they have for people is astounding. I am in awe of the work they do to provide that support. I would also like to talk about Share the Dignity, an organisation which provides menstrual products to females when they are escaping family and domestic violence or facing homelessness. Their work is incredibly important to tackle period poverty.

I would like to talk about the Sandgate Art Society and the work they do in supporting our local artists. They have their famous Easter Art Show coming up where they showcase art pieces from local artists. I encourage everyone to attend that at St Patrick's College. I would like to talk about the volunteers at our Sandgate & District Senior Citizens Centre. Many of them have spent a lot of years supporting elderly people in our community. People like Jan and Julie spend a lot of time working with our elderly community to ensure they have a place where they can find community connection.

I mention Meals on Wheels, where I met John who has volunteered for Meals on Wheels for over 25 years. He is still delivering meals to our local community. He says his favourite part is getting to meet all of the local residents.

I mention the volunteers at our sporting clubs who do a wonderful job. Our parents and volunteers help put together fetes and sports carnivals. They spend a lot of time in the kitchen behind hot frying pans making meals for the kids, and the work they do deserves recognition.

I would like to acknowledge Elaine who has been a volunteer in policing for over 20 years. Her service in assisting our northside police is remarkable. Last year she helped out at many of my seniors morning teas, putting together some great kits that went a long way to help support our seniors. Thank you, Elaine, for that work and for your 20 years of volunteering service.

I would like to recognise all of our P&Cs which help support our local kids and schools. Volunteers in P&Cs are the backbone of our schools. Their dedication to fundraising, event organising and advocacy makes an enormous difference for the students in our community. I have attended many school fetes and festivals where I have seen the work they do behind the scenes.

I would like to recognise our RSLs which provide incredible support behind the scenes to ensure our veterans have a place where they can meet other people like them who have served and receive that support. That work is incredible. Our sporting clubs do a lot of work, and I especially mention the Brighton Roosters volunteers who put on a cracker of a day on Australia Day at their annual crab races. If anyone has not been to them, I encourage you to go and have a look because it is a great day out. An enormous amount of volunteering goes into organising that day, so well done to them.

Deputy Speaker, with the time I have left and with the indulgence of the House, I would like to say that, as we approach Anzac Day I want to take a moment to acknowledge the extraordinary men and women who have served and continue to serve our great nation. Anzac Day is a time to reflect on the courage, sacrifice and mateship of those who have served. To our veterans and members of the Sandgate RSL Sub Branch, we honour and remember your sacrifice. Lest we forget.