



Speech by

Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard Tuesday, 17 August 2010

SENIORS WEEK

Dr ROBINSON (Cleveland—LNP) (10.19 pm): Seniors Week is an important time in the Redlands for the various groups that represent our senior citizens and that run events. Seniors Week is important as it gives us the opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution that seniors make to our local community. Yesterday, Monday 16 August, I joined Sallyanne Atkinson, a former lord mayor of Brisbane, at a U3A breakfast at the Donald Simpson Centre in Cleveland. In her speech she highlighted some of the issues confronting seniors in the transition to the senior years. She also referred to a question that I had asked her prior to giving her speech. The question was, 'What are you doing with yourself these days?' Sallyanne said that she had been Australia's senior trade commissioner to France, a representative to the International Chamber of Commerce and various other things. Sallyanne described the activities in her senior years as a 'portfolio' of activities. She further explained that sometimes this innocent question—what are you doing these days—may inadvertently be interpreted as a question about an individual's worth in the community.

I acknowledge the work of various seniors groups in my electorate: the University of the Third Age, the Donald Simpson Centre, the National Seniors Association, the Redlands District Committee on the Ageing, the Redlands RSL, Rotary and Lions clubs, Probus, the Wellington Point and Cleveland bowls clubs and others. The work of those groups is particularly significant as the Redlands is home to a higher than average proportion of senior citizens. I acknowledge the good work of the Redlands U3A, Ted Grant, Julie Porteous, John Butters, other leaders and many volunteer tutors who freely give of their time to share their expertise and talents with others. U3A provides members with affordable education and the opportunity to study and learn in a relaxed environment.

I acknowledge the amazing work of Ernie Harrison and the Donald Simpson Centre. Ernie has built a fantastic centre that provides various activities for seniors such as Matildas Quilters, music appreciation, Out With A Difference, Spanish classes, the stroke support group, the theatrical group and Walkers for Health. It was a pleasure to be invited to the recent breakfast and to see the new bus stop that we worked hard to get being put to good use. I look forward to returning this Friday with Rosemary Menkens to meet many more wonderful Cleveland senior citizens. I also pay tribute to other key seniors in the Redlands: June Craven continues to raise much needed funds for the Cancer Council, 107-year-old Edith MacFarlane after whom a department of housing complex was named, 103-year-old Olive Webber who still performs at seniors concerts, Aunty Margaret and Uncle Pat Iselin of the Minjerribah North Stradbroke Island elders, to name but a few.

I close by raising one issue that has put a slight damper on Seniors Week in the Redlands. For some reason, unbeknown to me and Redlands seniors, in 2009 and 2010 funding to Redlands seniors groups to run events during Seniors Week seems to have evaporated. I ask the minister to look into this and to provide some assistance.

(Time expired)