



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Palm Beach/Currumbin Red Cross; Elanora Police Beat

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (12.19 am): Tonight I speak in admiration of the Palm Beach/Currumbin Red Cross branch, which has been honourably serving the southern Gold Coast since 1971, well and truly living up to its mission to 'care for the most vulnerable'. I attended the recent AGM and would like to record my appreciation to Vice-President Vola Bass, Treasurer Gail Wilkins, Secretary Stephanie Shaw and Hall Convener Allan Bass. It is appropriate for me to also acknowledge past president Margaret Thomas, who sadly passed away in April. Her dedicated service and commitment to the Red Cross and beyond will be remembered with genuine fondness.

Red Cross volunteers are a key part of the fabric of our community, providing a lifesaving blood service, beauty service, crafts, hall hire, Bunnings barbecue and regular fundraising events, just to name a few. Through these initiatives, they have raised an impressive \$25,500 over the past financial year. Through their mobility equipment hire service, for the 2014-15 year 1,403 clients were serviced with 1,982 pieces of equipment, which translates to about 40 pieces being hired out each week. The income raised from this invaluable service was close to \$40,000, taking the grand total raised by the Palm Beach/Currumbin branch to over \$65,000, which is a highly commendable figure indeed.

Recently, our local Elanora Police Beat celebrated 10 years of remarkable service within the Currumbin community. In August 2005, I stood with the then minister and the Police Commissioner as we opened the doors to the Elanora Police Beat for the first time. Dedicated police officers working there have embedded themselves in our local community, working side by side with young people and their families to make our neighbourhoods safer. Since the establishment of the Elanora Police Beat, I can report some fantastic statistics: an 80 per cent reduction in wilful damage to schools, a 70 per cent reduction in burglaries and an 85 per cent reduction in youth violence. Whether it is playing a mentoring role in the successful youth project Booyah, supporting our Neighbourhood Watch groups, working with disengaged youth or implementing anti-hooping strategies, those officers and volunteers have made a huge difference to many lives. On behalf of the Currumbin community, I thank Senior Constable Kurt Foessel, Dave Sammonds, Laci and the team for their unwavering dedication to our community.

I take this opportunity to thank all of our police officers for their outstanding efforts to keep Currumbin safe. The LNP supported them with tough anti-criminal bikie laws, unlike Labor which wants to repeal them and water them down. Recently, I direct mailed the entire electorate on issues that concerned them. An overwhelming 92 per cent of respondents did not want to see Labor weaken the LNP's bikie laws. Let us hope that for once Labor will listen to the community it pretends to support.