



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Teenage Adventure Camps Queensland

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.49 pm): Teenage Adventure Camps Queensland, TAC-Q, is a non-profit, all volunteer organisation that has been operating an annual camp in the Currumbin electorate for many years. Their sole purpose is to bring happiness into the challenging lives of teenagers with life-threatening illnesses.

I imagine every single one of us in this House knows people whose friends or family members are suffering from diseases like cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, various forms of cancer and other debilitating illnesses. These individuals live in our electorates and are part of the rich tapestry of our community. As the proud patron of TAC-Q for over a decade, I am continually inspired by the courage and the confidence these brave youngsters exhibit during their week-long adventure based in Currumbin at the Rocks Resort, which generously part sponsors this yearly event.

The aim of TAC-Q's annual camps is to create interaction between teenagers with life-threatening illnesses in order to inject some fun and positivity into their lives by providing them with the holiday of a lifetime, doing things they do not normally get the chance to do. They are challenged, encouraged and motivated to participate in unforgettable activities and leave knowing that they can achieve anything they set their minds to.

Judging from the rave reviews these kids give the camp and the fact that many come back in successive years, it is clear that this week is a major high spot. Campers talk about the fun they had, friendships they established or rekindled and the realisation they are not alone with their adversities and limitations. Mind you these limitations seem to disappear when you picture these teens on Harley motor bikes, at Dreamworld, swimming in the ocean or on the dance floor at a disco.

TAC-Q's 23rd annual fundraising luncheon was held a couple of months ago. The guest speaker was Ollie Collins. Ollie, who has the condition fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva, FOP—an extremely rare connective tissue disorder in which muscle tissue and connective tissue are gradually ossified, forming bone outside the skeleton that severely constrains movement—was an absolute delight. Ollie attended TAC-Q as a 14-year-old and inspired everyone as he shared the tests he has faced in overcoming adversity to be admitted to the Bar as a solicitor. To say his talk was motivational and goosebump inducing is an understatement, and his humour was delightfully mischievous.

TAC-Q can only support young people like Ollie with the generosity and kind hearts of the wider community. The luncheon is their major fundraising event for the year. Congratulations to president, David Cameron, the wonderful volunteer carers and dedicated committee who work so industriously and with so much love to brighten the lives of these teenagers. Their reward is seeing the smiles on the faces of teenagers whose lives have been changed as has their belief in their capabilities. We can all learn so much from people like Ollie about living life to the full and not wasting energy on trivial things.