



Speech by
Glen Elmes

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard Wednesday, 7 February 2007

BUTTERFLY KIDS

Mr ELMES (Noosa—Lib) (9.33 pm): Last Saturday I was honoured to compere a fundraising auction for a group known as Butterfly Kids, an extremely worthy not-for-profit community group that provides respite and support to 286 disabled children and their families within the Noosa shire by offering specialised equipment and assistance. This support extends to families and carers, special education units, sporting and recreation clubs and other community groups that have services that benefit children and teenagers with a disability within the shire.

I have been involved with Butterfly Kids since its inception and was happy to lend a hand in the early stages helping the committee to set up by providing advice and information on developing a constitution and the incorporation process. The professionalism that the committee has shown in just a short time is inspiring and sets a benchmark for other associations to follow.

I am proud to say that Saturday's fundraising event showed the Noosa community at its best, with businesses and individuals all happy to help by either giving their time or contributing financially. The event raised much-needed funds, and I would like to thank Donna Lethborg from Asian Discovery in Noosa Junction and her partner, Sandy Moore, for their hard work in putting it all together. Thanks must also go to David Garwood, of Remax Property Specialists, who gave his time and expertise to conduct the auction. Other supporters include Greg Holman of Holman Accountants, solicitor Joe McMahon, the Noosa Council Social Club and the Noosa Heads Rotary Club.

As the coordinator, Leanne Walsh is to be commended for her realisation of the Butterfly Kids concept when, as a mum with a disabled child—and he is a great young fellow by the name of Curtis—she recognised that this type of service was desperately needed in Noosa and went about setting it up. Butterfly Kids has now grown and employed Simon Edes from the Victorian Disability Sector, who brings knowledge, experience and a forward-thinking approach to his role with Butterfly Kids. I am sure Simon will be a great asset to the association and to the Noosa community. I wish Leanne and Simon and everyone else who is associated with Butterfly Kids continuing success with their work on behalf of disabled kids and their families.