



Speech by  
**Glen Elmes**

**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

Hansard Tuesday, 9 October 2007

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## **COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

**Mr ELMES** (Noosa—Lib) (9.53 pm): Tonight I rise to address the House on matters dear to the heart of all Queenslanders—matters relating to our communities and the organisations who play pivotal roles in supporting and helping the disadvantaged amongst us. As the year draws to a close, the majority of us approach the holiday season with joy. For some, however, the expectations are not of joy but of need and disadvantage. In Noosa we are exceptionally blessed with a number of associations who strive to meet these needs.

Tonight I would like to recognise and pay tribute to these community groups. A prime example is one called Frangipani Dreams Giving Hope. As Moy Sweetman, the founder of the organisation, states on her web site, the aim of community groups is 'all about bringing people together to give hope and unconditional love from one human being to another'. This perfectly describes what community spirit is all about. I commend Frangipani Dreams for achieving its goals of giving hope and easing the burden of others.

I would also like to make special mention of Meals on Wheels, particularly the organisations that exist in Coolumb and Noosa. I have had the pleasure of attending their annual general meetings in recent weeks and would like to take this opportunity to thank these outstanding volunteers who do so much—and mean so much—to the people they care for.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of United Synergies Ltd, formerly known as the Noosa Youth Services. This organisation has been operating since 1989 providing accommodation, emergency relief, counselling, mentoring and referral services to disadvantaged youth in the Noosa region. One of the programs delivered by United Synergies is the StandBy Bereavement Response Service, which was recently given substantial Commonwealth funding to roll out its unique service nationally. United Synergies are to be commended, both for developing and delivering these services and for having the foresight to take these services to the national level.

On a personal note, I would also like to thank and commend Ozcare, especially Jo Pennell, the Director of Nursing, at its Noosa Heads facility. During my recent family bereavement, Ozcare provided care, compassion and understanding during what was a very difficult time.

The recent amendments to the Community Services Bill to remove 'red tape' and to clarify the decision-making criteria by which community groups will be judged was most welcome. I embrace all the provisions that make the relationship between government and non-government community groups more professional. Furthermore, I have welcomed further assistance to organisations such as Frangipani Dreams and United Synergies in making the government more available to these organisations so that they can continue their very good works for Noosa and the wider Queensland community. They deserve our respect and support, and I commend these organisations to the House.