



Speech by

**Barbara Stone**

**MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD**

Hansard Wednesday, 3 June 2009

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## **AMPUTEE AWARENESS DAY**

**Ms STONE** (Springwood—ALP) (9.33 pm): As the patron for the Amputees and Family Support Group Queensland, I inform the House that next Thursday, 11 June is Amputee Awareness Day. I, like many in our communities, take my good health and my limbs for granted. I believe that able bodied people do not fully understand some of the difficulties that amputees face. How many of us most mornings will open a carton of milk with ease and without much thought of how easy it is? Imagine undertaking that same task if you had only one arm.

Any one of us can be a victim of an accident at any time. We can become a victim of a road accident, a sports accident or a work accident and face the possibility of having a limb removed as a result. What would we do? How would we cope waking up in hospital to the news that we have lost a limb or hearing doctors tell us they will need to do an amputation? It can happen to any of us at any point in time so easily.

If this happened to a loved one, how would they cope? How would we cope? Where would we go for assistance? Would we really know what to do? When I ask this question to people they say, 'I don't know.' It is not only accidents that can leave someone an amputee. There are, of course, a number of people who lose a limb through diseases such as diabetes. That does not change the question of where people go for support and help when they are faced with becoming an amputee.

I am very pleased to advise the House of the great work of the Amputees and Family Support Group Queensland, located in Springwood. They are a non-profit, self-help community organisation that is dedicated to promoting the needs of amputees and their families while providing quality service to members, working towards their maximum potential. Twenty-five years ago the group was formed by a few amputees who felt alone and isolated when they first lost their limbs. After an advertisement in the local newspaper, the group was formed. There are other support groups on the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast, but today the Amputees and Family Support Group Queensland has representatives in north Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Kingaroy, Mackay, Maryborough and Toowoomba. All of those support groups are doing the very important work of supporting amputees and their families throughout the state.

It does not matter what time of day or night, the members of the support group are on call to answer the calls of amputees or their family members, providing support, counselling and medical advice. That really makes this group a valued and important partner for government.

Next Thursday I would like to encourage all members to go out into their electorates and remember the amputees in their communities. I encourage members to join the Amputees and Family Support Group Queensland and promote Amputee Awareness Day next Thursday.