



Speech By  
**Christian Rowan**

**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Country Women's Association; Brookfield Show

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (1.02 am): Tonight I rise to inform the House of the presence of two branches of the Queensland Country Women's Association in my electorate of Moggill. The Country Women's Association was first formed in New South Wales and Queensland in 1922. Over the next 14 years, similar associations were formed in other states as well as the Northern Territory. Finally in 1945 those associations agreed to form a federal body, the Country Women's Association of Australia. Today, despite the existence of this federal body and a local organisation existing in each state, the organisation as a whole is still commonly known as the Country Women's Association, the CWA. The two branches of the Queensland CWA in my electorate of Moggill are the ones located in Brookfield and Moggill.

While some may see the CWA as devoted solely to afternoon tea and cakes, nothing could be further from the truth. In their local communities, apart from monthly meetings, they organise a variety of courses and events, handicrafts, fundraisers, cookery courses and competitions, art and photography competitions and even a five-day leadership school for kids. Such opportunities to be involved in are important for the wellbeing of any community. As State President Robyn McFarlane said—

We are always 'just there' in times of crisis, rallying on the ground, helping out. With the drought worsening in central Queensland, and communities under great stress, we have decided to actively distribute application forms to our Public Rural Crisis Fund—a fund built from donations and the amazing fundraising of our members.

Through the Fund, we provide practical assistance in the form of store credit, payment of bills directly and grocery store gift vouchers. We ensure, for example, that food is on the table, telephone bills are paid, and vehicles are registered. We ensure that not only is the recipient assisted but that the money stays in the local community, supporting local businesses. Last year, we helped 330 families; this year to end May, 398 families.

Noteworthy is that the QCWA operates one of the few charities where 100 per cent of money raised is donated back into regional, rural and remote communities. The major aim of both state and federal bodies is to improve the conditions for women and children and make life better for families, especially those living in rural and remote Australia. The CWA is something of an Australian institution, but the extent and variety of its activities make it much more than that. I commend the work it does to the House and propose that as a matter of principle we encourage and assist it in any reasonable way possible.

In my remaining time I want to acknowledge the Brookfield Show Society President, Mr Cameron Dart, and all of the stewards and volunteers who contributed to the success of the 2016 Brookfield Show. It was great to see the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Hon. Paul de Jersey, there as well as my colleague the member for Indooroopilly. I know my son Angus was very excited that his entry of the Pullenvale State School's rooster 'Eggy' resulted in the successful outcome of third prize in the best looking rooster competition. Certainly my wife, Jane, and I enjoyed sharing this success with our great friends Richard, Damien and Sophie Edmonds. My family and I have very much valued the loyal friendship of the Edmonds family over many years, including that of Bebbie Edmonds and the late Graham Edmonds.