



11 September 2009

We're Peachey Proud Say Residents

Stop "trashing" the Community pleads Local MP

Local MP Tony Piccolo has called on the state wide media to stop "trashing" the Peachey Belt.

In a strong speech to parliament on Wednesday (September 9th) Mr Piccolo said the ongoing representation of the Peachey Belt as "streets full of fear and loathing" has left the community reeling and stigmatised.

Mr Piccolo told parliament that "this community has been unjustly targeted by various state media outlets to the point where many of the residents living in the locality feel that they have been vilified and made the scapegoat of all the ills in our society today."

"I can say that an overwhelming majority of residents in the Peachey Belt are proud, that is, they are Peachey Proud." Mr Piccolo told State Parliament.

Mr Piccolo said the media have the right, indeed the responsibility, to highlight problems in our community.

"Equally, the media also have the responsibility to provide fair and balanced reporting." he said.

"This unfair reporting not only influences how the wider community views the Peachey Belt and its residents but, just as importantly, how local residents see themselves."

Mr Piccolo said that he was not suggesting that the Peachey Belt has no problems or challenges to face – indeed it does.

"However, this community is trying very hard to lift itself, so it is very destructive when, as they try to get to their knees, some sections of the media sink the boot in and force them to the ground again."

Mr Piccolo warned that the greatest losers in this vicious cycle of stigmatisation are the young people who live in the area.

"How can we expect them [young people] to believe in themselves when the rest of the community (as demonstrated through the media) does not?" he asked.

"By all means, report the problems, but also report the success stories. "

State Member for Light
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Mr Piccolo said when you speak with residents and get to know them, you soon learn it is also the 'streets of many successes'.

Local resident Mrs Alberton said she has lived in Davoren Park 47 years and loves the fantastic atmosphere and sense of community.

“I have nothing but pride for the area and its people” she said

Bob and Mary Gosling agree. They have lived locally area for over 45 Years having raised 5 children.

“This is a great place to live and raise a family, everything is close by and convenient including shops and schools, who could ask for anything more!” they said.

Shirley and Jim Styles who have in area since 1963 said they know of 7 families in my street alone that have lived in the area for over 40 years.

“That alone is testament to the great lifestyle this area has to offer” they said.

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