

BETHANIE GROUP

Statement by Member for Peel

MR P. PAPALIA (Peel) [12.53 pm]: I take the opportunity today to inform the house of an event I attended in my electorate on Monday, 19 May at Bethanie Waters Residential Aged Care Home in Warnbro. On that day Church of Christ Homes officially launched its new name, the Bethanie Group. I frequently visit the residential aged care facility at Bethanie Waters and also the co-located retirement village. When I do, I always receive a hospitable reception from Patricia Carpenter, the manager of the aged care residence, and Jeanette Marlowe, on-site manager of the retirement village. On this particular occasion the entire hierarchy of the former Church of Christ Homes was present to witness the official launch of its new brand, the Bethanie Group. Fittingly, the recently appointed Federal Ambassador for Ageing, Noeline Brown, was the keynote speaker at the launch. Noeline was hosted by the chairman of the Bethanie Group board, Mr Barry Honey, and the group's chief executive, Mr Wayne Belcher. These gentlemen, and Noeline, displayed a commendable dedication to advocating on behalf of the needs and interests of the most senior of our citizens. The Bethanie Group is the state's biggest residential aged care provider, and Bethanie Waters, as the flagship of the group's range of residential sites, was a fitting location for the launch. In his speech at the launch, Mr Belcher also announced an initiative that I found to be of great interest. The Bethanie Group has created a branch dedicated to the provision of affordable housing. Bethanie Housing Ltd aims to become one of the Department of Housing and Works' growth provider organisations. This branch of the group is headed by Mr Stephen Becsi, deputy chief executive of the Bethanie Housing Group, who is not only a constituent of my electorate, but also an old Navy colleague. It goes without saying that Mr Becsi is a thorough professional, and I welcome this move by the Bethanie Group as it can only assist in meeting the extensive and growing demand for affordable housing in the state.