



THE PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA - HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ADJOURNMENT SPEECH – HAEMOCHROMOTOSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Minister for Resources) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I am pleased tonight to stand in support of Haemochromatosis Awareness Week and to make reference to two other very special events.

Haemochromatosis Awareness Week is from 7 to 13 August. The purpose of the week is to focus attention on the condition haemochromatosis. It is an inherited iron overload disorder. It is the most common genetic disorder in Australia. It causes the body to absorb excess iron, which builds up in the organs and joints over many years and eventually becomes toxic. Early symptoms include joint pains, fatigue and weakness. Tests for the condition are simple and cheap and it is a condition that is easily treated and if detected early is no barrier to a normal healthy life. The mission of Haemochromatosis Australia is to ensure no Australian suffers harm from haemochromatosis.

Not so long ago, I held an information and education day here in this parliament in support of Haemochromatosis Australia. Last Friday I was proud to open the third Overload Art Exhibition at the Deloraine Hospital and Community Health Centre. The exhibition was curated by haemochromatosis volunteer advocate Sheila Stephenson and supported ably by her husband Bernie. It was supported by the very many talented local artists. I was joined by my wife Kate and many members of the local community in the Meander Valley.

It was wonderful that Tasmanian volunteers, like Sheila and the many generous and talented artists contributed to the Overload Exhibition so that, through the medium of art, it helped us to understand more about this condition. The exhibition will be on display at the hospital until 7 November. I encourage as many Tasmanians in the community and elsewhere to go along and enjoy it.