



## **Amanda Rishworth MP**

Member for Kingston

Speech to Federal Parliament

18 June 2009

### **Community Cabinet**

(Kingston) (11:48 AM) —I rise to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister a question about community cabinets. There was a community cabinet held in July last year in my electorate of Kingston. Over 800 people from around the southern suburbs of Adelaide and even further afield came to the Hallett Cove School R-12 to meet with the whole cabinet and the Prime Minister. This was an incredibly successful event. I got incredibly good feedback after the process. I think people were particularly pleased that they got to ask the Prime Minister direct questions. The Prime Minister was asked a number of direct questions, and I thought I would mention some of the concerns in my local area that were raised at the community cabinet. They included questions on water and pensions and a whole range of other issues, including congratulating the Prime Minister and acknowledging the fact that he said sorry to the Indigenous people of this country.

People particularly enjoyed having individual meetings with their local cabinet ministers. This was very important because it allowed people to have that one-on-one connection with the different cabinet ministers on a range of different issues. Certainly the members of the Hallett Cove Residents Association were very pleased to have a one-on-one meeting with the Prime Minister, during which they were able to discuss the issue of broadband in the area—

*Mr Briggs interjecting—*

Ms Rishworth: I hear the member for Mayo interjecting. In fact, there were a lot of constituents from his electorate who came down to talk directly with the Prime Minister and they were very pleased to have that opportunity as well. In addition, a number of local people were pleased to meet with Minister Macklin. They were able to talk to her directly about the pension and the pension increase—an increase that I know they have welcomed in this budget. Some veterans in my area were very pleased to have the opportunity to meet directly with the defence minister to talk about their experience in World War II.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the ministers for attending and the Hallett Cove R-12 School, who did an enormous job making sure that the location was available, that it was well suited and that everyone was very comfortable on this

very cold night. I know that seeing so many people attend was a buzz within their school community. I certainly think that this type of event was an incredible success and will continue to be so as the Prime Minister and cabinet continue to move around the country.

My question to the parliamentary secretary is: how have the community cabinets and this program been received in other areas of the country?