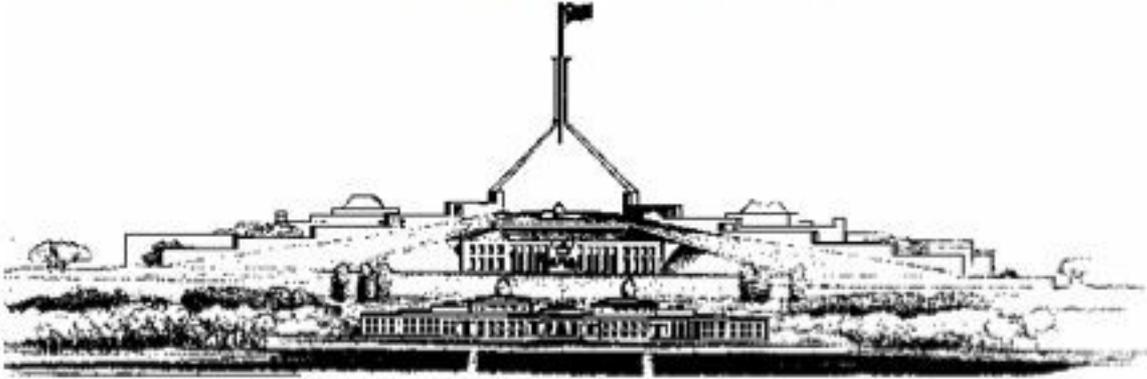




COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

STATEMENTS BY SENATORS

Australian Capital Territory

Focus ACT

SPEECH

Wednesday, 3 February 2016

SPEECH

Senator SESELJA (Australian Capital Territory) (13:48): I want to get on record the 25-year anniversary of Focus ACT. On 4 December I joined with Torrien Lau and Wilhelm Harnisch, the chair, to celebrate a key milestone for the organisation at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. Focus ACT has delivered service to the community for some 25 years. It is a local organisation dedicated to improving the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities. The event was a resounding success and a great opportunity for me, as the Focus ACT ambassador, to meet with the Focus board of directors and key stakeholders as well as clients, staff and family members. The event allowed the Focus team and their clients to celebrate a record of excellent service to some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

As a key player in the disability sector, Focus prides itself as one of the leading providers of accommodation support for people with intellectual disabilities. Focus's portfolio consists of over 60 clients residing in more than 30 homes, 17 of which are headleased by the organisation. It provides six of these homes with 24-hour support to its residents.

Focus is an example of the important service which our support workers deliver to the ACT. Their commitment to helping others through a vocation as a support network is something that is rightly applauded. It was a privilege to join with Focus ACT for such an important occasion. I congratulate them on their service to our local community. The event saw long-service medals awarded to staff that have been with Focus for more than five, 10 and 15 years. I commend Torrien, Wilhelm Harnisch and all the team at Focus for their efforts in organising such a successful event; but, more importantly, I commend the many, many people who have made Focus ACT such an important and successful part of our community for over 25 years.