



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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MULTICULTURAL SERVICE AWARDS

Ms NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (10.27 a.m.): Today I would like to recognise two of my constituents who were honoured last night in the 1999 Queensland Multicultural Service Awards, which were presented by our Premier, Peter Beattie. This launch of diversity highlighted the richness of Queensland cultures and recognised the significant contribution Queenslanders have made to support harmony, reduce prejudice and combat discrimination in our community. There were more than 100 nominations received for last night's awards. Ten individuals were presented with them, and two of these citizens were from Townsville, a city rich in cultural diversity.

Firstly, I congratulate my friend, Fereshteh Doostkhah. Fereshteh is a community worker of profound enthusiasm and tremendous energy. Over the years since 1994 she has been involved in numerous projects and initiatives helping migrants and refugees settle in Townsville. Fereshteh has been a member, coordinator and president of the Townsville Multicultural Women's Group. She is a steering committee member of the Townsville District Health Service and also works as a volunteer at Townsville General Hospital and Kirwan Hospital for Women. She is a bilingual facilitator for many projects on youth AIDS, mental health, sexual health and so on. She is a management committee member of the Townsville Multicultural Support Group. In her spare time, she works as a volunteer English tutor at the TAFE college.

Fereshteh is also a skilled planner and organiser. She has been a strong supporter of initiatives like the Migrant Resource Centre and multicultural functions organised by local bodies. I work closely with Fereshteh and the women's group and am proud to have such a close association with women of such substance.

Mrs Shirley Boyd was the other recipient from my electorate. It was good to meet her for the first time last night. Shirley is an English teacher in a very extraordinary way. She has been working tirelessly for more than 10 years as a volunteer English tutor for migrants and refugees coming to Australia from different parts of the world. Through teaching and contacts with her students, Shirley has provided the most needed help to many non-English speakers with their settlement in Australia. I once again congratulate these two wonderful women on their dedication and commitment to the challenges they face and overcome on a daily basis. Well done.

Time expired.
