



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 30 November 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Premier's Millennium Awards

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.36 a.m.), by leave: It gives me great pleasure today to announce the establishment of the Premier's Millennium Awards for Excellence. The aim of these awards is to recognise Queenslanders who have made a significant contribution to this State over the last 25 years of this century, to celebrate Queensland's living legends. It is only fitting that we show our appreciation to these people for playing their part in shaping Queensland into the great State we proudly call home. The calibre of recipients will no doubt follow in the footsteps of other great Queenslanders like former Premier of Queensland and lawyer T. J. Ryan; singer Gladys Moncrieff; aviator Bert Hinkler; and Neville Bonner, the first Aboriginal person to sit in Federal Parliament.

I am seeking bipartisan support for this initiative and have written to the leaders of the various political parties in this House seeking that, because I believe it is important to recognise the great achievers and inspire others to succeed. The categories for the Premier's millennium awards include business leadership, education/science, primary industries, mining, tourism, local government, environment, charity/welfare/health, indigenous affairs, multicultural affairs, arts/culture, and sport.

All Queenslanders will be invited to nominate people they believe have performed exceptionally well or who have made an important contribution to Queensland. One important way to contribute to society is by volunteering. A recent piece in the Australian newspaper pointed to a decline in volunteer work—particularly in the welfare sector. I urge members of this House to encourage nominations and to nominate people. Nominations will close on Friday, 7 January 2000. I hope these new awards will play a part in turning around this trend against people being prepared to volunteer. A panel of eminent Queenslanders including former Federal parliamentarian, Sir James Killen; former Queensland Governor, Mrs Leneen Forde; Mayor of Cairns, Councillor Tom Pyne; director-general of my department, Dr Glyn Davis; Queensland Newspapers Editor-in-Chief, Chris Mitchell; and former President of the Premier's Community Welfare Committee, Lyn Comben, will judge the winners. They will decide who will receive the Premier's Millennium Awards for Excellence.

Those living legends will then be honoured at a ceremony at Parliament House on 26 January, the day we celebrate another momentous occasion, Australia Day. Australia Day 2000 will be the day we recognise and reward the special qualities of those ambassadors who have helped make Queensland the great State that it is. I look forward to the assistance of all Queenslanders in celebrating Queensland's living legends. For the information of the House, I table a copy of one of the advertisements that will appear in the Courier-Mail seeking nominations from Queenslanders.
