



Speech by

**CARRYN SULLIVAN**

**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

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Hansard 15 May 2001

### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER

**Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN** (Pumicestone—ALP) (12.30 p.m.): 2001 is the International Year of the Volunteer. Today I take this opportunity to acknowledge the unpaid work done by the many in my electorate of Pumicestone. The government is also recognising these people, along with all the other volunteers throughout Queensland, and the important roles they play in communities.

The state government is committed to helping celebrate the International Year of the Volunteer. It is providing half a million dollars in community grants programs, which are open to all non-profit organisations, and \$200,000 to Volunteering Queensland. Awareness of volunteers' work will be increased by the handing out of special medallions and certificates in recognition of community achievements. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

In my electorate, a special steering committee has been established to award various long-term volunteers with a special medallion. Voluntary groups have been asked to nominate an outstanding member or members whose actions have changed communities for the better. The job of the steering committee will be difficult as there are so many deserving volunteers.

I was chairing a Bribie Island Community Hospice Committee meeting only last week, and I was inspired by the volunteering work they do. They are so selfless in their task of helping people with a terminal illness and their carers. I was overwhelmed to read that in most cases the volunteers only get a day or two notice and they have never let anyone down—not on Christmas Day, not on Easter Sunday, not anytime. They simply drop what they are doing and go to someone's home to comfort and help those who need them.

They are currently raising money to build a Hospice on Bribie Island which has a predominantly high percentage of retirees. The hospice committee obviously has the full support of the entire community as their financial statement showed they raised over \$70,000 in only four years—a truly remarkable feat considering most of the volunteers are of a retiring age.

Time here is limited and it is difficult to mention all individuals and groups who have that strong sense of duty and commitment to others, but I would like to express a communities' gratitude to Dorothy Vessey, who passed away in April of this year. Dorothy was never one to leave the work to someone else. Before she and husband Bert came to Bribie Island in 1969, she was a volunteer Guides Leader, Sunday school teacher and telephone Counsellor with Life Line in Brisbane. From 1979 to 1983 she held various voluntary positions on the Bribie Island golf club committee and was a foundation member. She volunteered her services to Red Cross and to the Bribie Island branch and helped run the book shop there for a number of years. She was also a foundation member of the Bribie Island Community Arts Centre. Dorothy will not only be remembered for her love of people (she was also a carer at the Golden Age Centre), but also for her love of animals. She worked tirelessly for the SPCA and was rewarded with Life Membership. Dorothy Vessey is missed already.

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