



Speech by

**Mr R. QUINN**

**MEMBER FOR ROBINA**

---

Hansard 5 December 2002

### VALEDICTORY

**Mr QUINN** (Robina—Lib) (3.10 p.m.): I also acknowledge all of the work hard work put in by all members of the House over the past 12 months, irrespective of what side of the chamber they sit on. We may have our political differences, as the Premier said, but this is the place in which those differences are fought out. They are fought out in a friendly debate sometimes, and sometimes there is a little bit of agro across the chamber, but at the end of the day the debate is decided by a vote and from then on everyone agrees and the whole issue goes forward.

If people do not think that is the best system, they have only to look at the television news every night to see people in other countries around the world resolving their differences with guns, wars and a whole range of other methods. Even though it may not be the most perfect system, it is by far the best system. We should cherish and support this system for as long as we can because the alternatives are too horrendous to even contemplate. At all times we should be very proud of what we in this state have and should make sure that we do not do anything to undermine it one iota, because to go in the other direction is simply not worth contemplating.

It also is not generally understood that over the past 200 years this nation has run one of the largest immigration programs. People from over 100 different countries have come to this country to make it their home. The way that we have managed to bring those people into our communities and managed to put our arms around them to embrace them has ensured that when events such as the World Trade Centre and the Bali bombings occur we can come together as a community, understand each other and make sure that those differences dividing other peoples around the world do not divide us. One of our great strengths is the way in which we have come together as Australians to ensure that everyone else, irrespective of their heritage and background, feels as though they are Australian.

This has been another tough year in terms of politics. For some of us it has been tougher than others and I seem to have found probably more than my share of trouble throughout the year. As members can see, I am still standing. Like all members of this parliament, we all go through our tough times, our tough days. But the next day we get up in the morning, put our clothes on and go out again. So there is something about this job that we all like.

Very briefly, I thank David and Joan, the other two members of the Liberal Party, for their support throughout the 12 months. With a team of three, there is a lot of work to be done by the other members. I thank David and Joan for their support throughout this year. If I had staff I would be lavishing my praise but, unfortunately as members probably do not know, I only have an allowance of \$3,118 with which to employ staff and hence cannot employ staff. I do thank the fourth Liberal, as I affectionately call him, Jake Smith, whom David and Joan very kindly support in terms of employment in my office. I do thank Jake for all the work he does, most of it well beyond the call of duty in terms of the Liberal Party.

I also thank my electorate office staff who bear an inordinate burden because of the lack of resources attributed to me by the Premier! This is Christmas spirit coming the other way. On this side of politics it is timely also to put on record my appreciation of the work Liz Cunningham does both for the Liberal Party, the Independents and One Nation in terms of acting as whip. She coordinates with the National Party whip to make sure that things flow smoothly on our side of politics.

It would be very remiss of me not to thank my family. As all members understand, they do bear quite a deal of the burden that members of parliament carry with them. We all should make a special effort over the next couple of weeks and months to ensure that we repair those relationships with our families that may have suffered some damage throughout the past 12 months. The burdens of this office, quite frankly, are borne by our families. Sometimes we do not understand what they go through to enable us to perform in this place and in the wider community.

From my and my family's point of view, sometimes the headlines are not all that kind for members of parliament. Whilst we can shrug it off because in many respects we have a veneer around us that enables us to take that criticism and process it, our family members do not have that. They probably feel criticism of the father, the mother or whoever it might be more than the person themselves. Over the next couple of weeks and months we should make sure that we nourish those relationships and support our families as much as we can to rebuild those relationships that might have been damaged for that period.

I thank all those who also work within the parliamentary precinct. I will not go through them by name or occupation, but they do a marvellous job in terms of supporting us in this precinct and in making sure that the precinct is accessible and presentable to the general public and to Queensland. One of the great success stories out of the past 12 months is the number of people who visited parliament, mainly school children and other interest groups, to understand how the parliamentary process works and to see members of parliament and the parliament itself in operation.

In conclusion, I wish all members of the House the very best for the festive season. I hope that members have an enjoyable time at home with their families, and I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.