



Speech by

## CHRISTINE SCOTT

### MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS

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Hansard 6 November 2002

#### AIR FORCE CADETS, 108 SQUADRON

**Mrs CHRISTINE SCOTT** (Charters Towers—ALP) (7.16 p.m.): Tonight I wish to draw to the attention of this House a group of people from my community of whom I am very proud. They are the Air Force Cadets of 108 Squadron, their instructors and families. 108 Squadron was formed in Charters Towers in June 1996 and is one of nine in north Queensland. Together they make up one wing which has its headquarters in Townsville. Our local council provided land at the airport and the squadron established three buildings at the site, including an orderly room, training room and lecture building. This has meant much hard work and fundraising and working bees for all concerned. Under the expert tutelage of their dedicated band of instructors, Bill Schulter, Bill Norton, Wayne Dixon, Danielle Webster and Peter Row, around 35 cadets attend parade every Friday night where they learn drill and subjects including aviation, aircraft recognition, knowledge of the history and customs of the RAAF, survival and field craft.

The Australian Air Force Cadets is a subcomponent of the Australian Services Cadet Scheme which aims, predominantly by volunteer effort, to better equip young people for community life by fostering initiative, leadership, discipline and loyalty. Four times a year the Charters Towers group goes out bush on a bivouac, cooking their own food and setting up a camp site et cetera. These are the activities many adults did with their parents when they were children, but for a variety of reasons many teenagers these days do not get the opportunity to experience this—unless, of course, they are members of the cadets, the scouts or similar groups. Quite a few of the cadets are from the three boarding schools in Charters Towers and come from a number of different parts of north Queensland, including Karumba, Normanton, Julia Creek and Cloncurry as well as Charters Towers city and surrounds.

The highlight of the ATC's year is the annual passing out parade and dinner. I will be joining with many proud parents and friends on the night to celebrate the end of another successful year for them. Last year's Mr Vise, Sergeant Clark, kept us all entertained. I know he has a great future ahead of him and will always be able to fall back on his skills as a comedian if all else fails. An emphasis is placed on creating a friendly environment with plenty of camaraderie, and our cadets also proudly participate in Anzac Day, Vietnam Day and Remembrance Day. As well as those dedicated instructors and their families, the squadron continues to owe a great deal to the support committee, which raises funds to meet running expenses such as telephone, Internet and electricity. Long-term members of the committee, Bob and Stephanie Townsend, finished their involvement this year after six years of hard work. People like Bob and Stephanie are the backbone of the committee. They will be sorely missed and difficult to replace. However, the people of this community are always willing to help others and I am sure someone will come forward to fill the void left by the Townsends.

I do not believe that we can place too high a value on the work that groups such as 108 Squadron do for the betterment of our young people by arming them with the skills, confidence and maturity to go out and take their place in an ever changing and challenging world. I call on the members of this House to recognise the efforts of this fine group of young Queenslanders as well as those of their dedicated instructors, families and the support group.