



Speech by

## CHRISTINE SMITH

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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Hansard 3 April 2003

### MS K. L. HEARN

**Mrs SMITH** (Burleigh—ALP) (7.04 p.m.): Yesterday, Kirsty Louise Hearn, a 25-year-old graduate from Brisbane's Oxley Police Academy, was inducted into the Queensland Police Service. For Kirsty, this was the culmination of a dream. As a 17-year-old, Kirsty joined the Australian Regular Army and served for a period of seven years. In 1996 she became a military police officer and was the first female military police officer in Australia to successfully complete the close personal protection course, commonly known as body guarding. Subsequently, she went to England in the capacity of assistant instructor of CPP to the English military police. From there she was posted to Bosnia for two months and then back to Edinburgh on official duties.

Kirsty was appointed as a member of Major Colonel Peter Cosgrove's Close Personal Protection Unit in Timor and undertook a specialist role protecting VIPs and dignitaries. On returning to Australia, Kirsty lost her father in tragic circumstances. Showing a strength far beyond her years, she continued her studies and subsequently won the Peter Boyle Memorial Trophy which is awarded to the top military police officer for the year. Kirsty then spent a year in Canberra in the Federation Guard and ultimately reached sergeant level, in charge of a military police dog unit at Oakey. Her ambition since leaving high school, however, had always been to join the Queensland Police Service. She applied and was rejected three times. Her mother, as mothers do, wrote to the Police Commissioner to ask just what were they looking for in a police officer. I am not sure what his response was, but Kirsty, through sheer perseverance, was finally accepted as a recruit to the Queensland Police Service.

During her training she has been an outstanding recruit and at the induction ceremony yesterday she received the leadership award, which is presented to the recruit who displays leadership qualities, teamwork, is a team player and has contributed to academy life and spirit. Kirsty also won the firearms award and the physical skills education award, both of which demonstrate her abilities in the skill areas. The ultimate prize, however, is the commissioner's award. This is presented to the recruit who has achieved the highest standard of professionalism based on academic and skills performance, service, integrity, diligence, industry and ethical attitudes—and, yes, the commissioner's award also went to Kirsty.

Kirsty's mother, Judy, was at the ceremony to see her daughter achieve her dream. I know her love and support gave Kirsty the courage to persevere and her pride in her daughter is well founded. Kirsty has been assigned to the Gold Coast as a first-year constable. This is the Gold Coast's good luck. I am sure there is no finer officer in the QPS than Kirsty Hearn and I wish her all the best in her new career.