



Speech by

Hon. Margaret Keech

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

Hansard Wednesday, 10 November 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Consumer Protection Awards

Hon. M.M. KEECH (Albert—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development) (10.18 a.m.): I am proud to announce today that the Beattie government will recognise consumer protection crusaders through a new awards program. The first ever Queensland Consumer Protection Awards will be a key component of the inaugural Queensland Fair Trading Week 2005. Every one of us is a consumer—from the day we are born until the day we die—so consumer protection is vital. The Beattie government is proud of its consumer protection record.

The awards will recognise those who work so hard, often behind the scenes, to help the government protect consumers and improve marketplace practices. Categories will cover community organisations, business, media and a special minister's award. I invite individuals, business and industry associations and the media to enter the awards or nominate a worthy individual, business or project. If the awards scheme is successful—and I am certain it will be—then it will be expanded in future years. Trophies, certificates and prizes will be presented to winning nominees on International Consumer Rights Day in mid-March 2005. I intend to seek award nominations through media promotion and direct mail in coming weeks, and I also encourage all members of this House to support the awards.

I look forward to the support of all members. As a local member and also as a minister, I regularly meet with a range of people who selflessly give their time to help others when it comes to protecting consumers. Many people are committed to pushing consumer issues, not for themselves but for others who, for a range of reasons, might not have been able to help themselves. These awards, which I am launching today, will give the Beattie government an opportunity to recognise the efforts of people such as these.