



Speech by

Paul Hoolihan

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Hansard Wednesday, 29 September 2004

POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr HOOLIHAN (Keppel—ALP) (6.50 p.m.): Today it was gratifying for me to see the number of people in this House and staff recognise Police Remembrance Day. It is a sad indictment on our society that we have to have police officers, who keep the fabric of our society intact, remembered because they have died in the line of duty. It is an even sadder position for me to realise that, of the three officers who have died in the line of duty in the central Queensland region in the past 20 years, two of them died in my own seat of Keppel. It was pleasant to know that their memory is not forgotten.

That brings me to the other point that I want to make about our emergency services, of which the Queensland Police Service is a very important part. On 4 September I had the pleasure of attending at St Joseph's Cathedral in Rockhampton an ecumenical service for our emergency services. At that service, nine of our emergency services groups were recognised. They came together to celebrate their work and to show society that they were there to assist them. At that service, the Queensland Police Service was recognised, as was the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, the Queensland Ambulance Service, the rural fire brigade, St John's Ambulance, the volunteer coastguard, the counterdisaster relief, the SES and the SES cadets.

Mr Mulherin interjected.

Mr HOOLIHAN: That is a good question. It was an ecumenical service and it was conducted by both the Catholic Church and the Uniting Church in central Queensland. One of the things that is of concern to me is that we do not recognise our emergency services sufficiently. This service is the only ecumenical service that is held anywhere in Australia for our emergency services. After seeing the respect with which all of those emergency services were treated at that service and the large number of people who attended, I would like to ask all members to consider encouraging their own emergency services in their own areas to hold such services on an annual basis.