



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Greats; Suncorp Awards; Smart Awards

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.37 am): Queensland Week is a time to celebrate our heritage, diversity, strengths and achievements. Today it is especially so as 6 June is Queensland Day. I wish all Queenslanders a happy Queensland Day. Importantly, we pay tribute to those amongst us who have made significant contributions to the Smart State and the fabric of life in our community.

Last week I was delighted to announce the 2006 Queensland Greats who are actor Geoffrey Rush, business leader Dr Jim Kennedy, artist and philanthropist Margaret Olley, golfer Greg Norman and medical researcher Professor Ian Frazer. For the first time I awarded an institution, the Mater Misericordiae Health Services. The contributions of these greats cannot be overstated. They are, in many respects, our living legends.

I further congratulate Professor Ian Frazer, whom I announced on Sunday as the 2006 Suncorp Queenslanders of the Year in recognition of his pioneering medical research into a vaccine for cervical cancer. The Suncorp Young Queenslanders of the Year Award has been presented to Commonwealth gold medallist Leisel Jones. Shenee Lea Geerin has received the inaugural Suncorp Community Spirit Award for her determination in the face of adversity and outstanding fundraising achievements at the young age of 13. It is no wonder that, with Queenslanders such as these, the Smart State stands tall.

Queenslanders will be celebrating all over the state this week with more than 100 events being held between 4 and 11 June. Still to come this week are the Smart Awards, which recognise the success and innovation of Queensland businesses, a special welcome of some 500 Australian citizens at a citizenship ceremony at Roma Street Parkland and, of course, the Big Queensland Barbecue this coming Sunday. I invite all Queenslanders to celebrate what makes this state of ours such a great place to live, work and play. To our Greats and Suncorp Queenslanders of the Year, I say: thank you and well done on your achievements.