



Speech by

**Liz Cunningham**

**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2007

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## VALEDICTORY

**Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (7.44 pm): On behalf of the Independents and One Nation I endorse the comments made by the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party. In relation to all staff in the parliamentary precinct we wish to say thank you. I put on the record that not all who work here see much public recognition but each role played by staff is so important to us all.

To those in the Speaker's, the Clerk's office, the Table Office, Bills and Papers, security, protocol and the attendants who are here every day that we sit and provide us with all of our needs, committee staff, Hansard staff who record so valiantly at times the proceedings of this chamber, library and education, corporate and house services and people like the cleaners—we walk out of our bedrooms and we come back in and it is all put back right; we appreciate that so much—HR, catering, financial and administration, IT, Property Services and the gardeners who make this precinct so enjoyable we record our appreciation for all of your efforts.

To all members and staff, we wish you peace. In our lives we navigate many challenges including health, emotional and other challenges. To all who have faced challenges this year we wish you courage and victory. Some members and staff have had to say goodbye to loved ones this year and we pass on our prayers and words of support and sympathy as you celebrate a Christmas with that person not physically present for the first time. It is always extraordinarily difficult.

Christmas is a time, as has been said before, for family reunions, a time to rebuild and reinforce those relationships that support us as members of parliament throughout the year in our absences and in our returns. To all we trust you will enjoy a safe, happy and holy Christmas. May the celebrations you experience recognise the reason for the season. Again, on behalf of the Independents and One Nation, may 2008 bring each member of parliament, each parliamentary staff member and all family members of everyone represented in this precinct a happy and joyous occasion. Merry Christmas and God's blessing to each one.