



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 5 June 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Greats

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.51 am): Being named a Queensland Great is one of our state's most prestigious accolades, and last week I was pleased to honour five extraordinary Queenslanders and one iconic institution through this year's awards. The 2007 Queensland Greats are Mr Ashley Cooper, Ms Leneen Forde AC, Mr Doug Hall AM, Professor John Hay AC and Sir Leo Hielscher AC. Surf Life Saving Queensland has also been awarded the Queensland Great's institutions award. I table details of all of the successful Queensland Greats and seek leave to incorporate more details in *Hansard*.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Queensland Greats Bios'.

Leave granted.

Their achievements cover a wide variety of fields and pursuits, and include an Australian tennis legend, Queensland's first female Governor, and one of the State's most iconic institutions that has helped keep our beaches safe for nearly a century.

I congratulate each of the Greats on their achievements and thank them for their contribution to Queensland.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to take the opportunity, as we celebrate Queensland Week, to congratulate the Suncorp Queenslander of the Year, Professor Matthew Sanders and Young Queenslander of the Year, Lars Olsen.

Matthew and Lars are two remarkable individuals who, like our Queensland Greats, have made tremendous contributions to the State within their respective fields.

Through their tireless hard work and dedication, they have both contributed to building better lives for children here in Queensland and around the world.

Professor Sanders, from St Lucia in Brisbane, has worked to help families around the world through his extensive research into childhood behaviour. He has translated his research into practical programs that address behavioural problems and help families cope.

Lars Olsen, a 25 year old from Hervey Bay, is founder of the Forget-Me-Not children's home in Kathmandu. Through tireless fundraising efforts he has built the home for orphans and will increase the number of children it can care for to 20 by the end of the year.

The 2007 Suncorp Community Spirit Award was awarded to Jess Wellard, Alexandra Gasteen and Greg Nelson in recognition of their passion for social justice through their work at the Volunteer Refugee Tutoring and Community Support Program, also known as VoRTCS.

Mr Speaker, I'm sure all Members of this House join me in congratulating these outstanding Queenslanders and thanking them for their contributions to our great State.