



Speech by

**Ronan Lee**

**MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY**

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## **PARLIAMENTARY DRESS CODE; QPILCH**

**Mr LEE** (Indooroopilly—ALP) (9.51 pm): As a member of parliament, I find it a pleasure and a privilege to visit schools and my university, the University of Queensland, but I also spend quite a lot of time visiting kindergartens. I do not think I have seen a hissy fit at any of the kindergartens I have ever visited that quite matched the antics of the member for Currumbin in the House tonight. I just give this message to the member for Currumbin, who has what appears to me to be an absolute obsession with the dress code within the parliament, and maybe the message will be useful for all of her colleagues in the Liberal and National parties: loosen your ties and just relax. There are a lot more important things in life than obsessing about whether someone wears a tie or not.

Recently, I had the pleasure of opening the inaugural QPILCH homeless persons art exhibition at the Metro Arts gallery on Edward Street. The exhibition was organised by a number of groups, first and foremost being QPILCH. Also involved were the Red Cross Night Cafe, the Brisbane Youth Service, the Brisbane Homeless Service Centre and HART 4000, as well as volunteers from QPILCH's wonderful homeless persons' legal clinic and of course their clients. The Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House is a not-for-profit community based organisation. It coordinates pro bono legal work and also receives some funding from the Department of Communities.

I want to pay tribute firstly to the exhibitors whose talent, I have to say, was not only evident but was also the envy of all the lawyers who were in the room on the night. These are people who have genuinely accomplished against the odds. Their work was not only great to look at but it genuinely challenged me, and I think it also challenged the other people who attended the gallery opening, to think a bit harder about homeless issues. I want to also thank all of the wonderful lawyers who volunteer through QPILCH. It is a wonderful organisation. I especially thank the young lawyers. It is great to see their commitment to social justice. They are genuinely helping to make the world a better place. I was also joined on the night by the Deputy Mayor of Brisbane, David Hinchliffe. I want to pay special tribute to Tony Woodyatt, Peter Rosengren and Monica Taylor from QPILCH. I urge them to continue their important work.