



Speech by

Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability Action Week

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.17 am): Yesterday I and several members of the House—including the members for Mount Ommaney, Burleigh, Woodridge, Brisbane Central, Mulgrave, Hinchinbrook and Coomera—had the pleasure of attending the Disability Action Week awards ceremony. That shows that support for disability services transcends across all sides of the House and I thank all of those members for their attendance. The awards ceremony is the highlight of Disability Action Week where we can honour those people and organisations who have exceeded expectations and demonstrated overwhelming passion and commitment to the delivery of disability services throughout Queensland.

This year 112 nominations were received for the Disability Action Week awards, and this equals our previous record. I am pleased to advise the House that AEIOU received the supreme disability organisation award during the ceremony. I was able to visit one of the AEIOU facilities recently at Moorooka. As members may be aware, AEIOU is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing an early intervention and learning program for children aged between 2½ and five years who have been diagnosed with autism. Through its five Queensland centres, AEIOU has helped more than 100 children and their families, and it is looking at expanding even further.

The AEIOU program strives to ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential and transition to mainstream education by helping them develop the necessary skills to communicate, socialise and adapt to their unique sensory processing issues. It is great to see AEIOU recognised in this way for all of its hard work. I also want to congratulate the other winners, who included Petra Svab from Brisbane; Lorin Nicholson; Margaret Sharry, who is a teacher at the Royal Children's Hospital school; and Jessica Kendall from the Gold Coast who all won individual awards.

The Community Organisation and Community Association Award went to the Disabled Surfers Association of Australia on the Gold Coast. The Education and Arts Award went to the Glenleighden School, Fig Tree Pocket and the Woodridge State High School special education program. The Private Enterprise Award was won by Bunnings at Stafford.

I would like to thank the selection panel members from the disability sector and the wider community whose difficult task it was to recommend winners in the six award categories. I would also like to thank the sponsors. Without the contribution of our sponsors, we would not be able to celebrate achievements in the disability sector in the wonderful way in which we did yesterday.