



Speech by

Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 22 April 2009

QUEENSLAND MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Ms GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (11.49 am): I was delighted on Thursday, 16 April last week to represent the Premier at the announcement of the Barnardos 2009 Queensland Mother of the Year held at the Holiday Inn, Brisbane. Launched in 1996 by Barnardos, the awards aim to acknowledge the enormous contribution that mothers make in shaping Australia's future through their role in nurturing children. In a special ceremony which was emcee'd by Kelly Higgins-Divine from 612 ABC Radio and presented by the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Penelope Wensley AO, Barbara Pope from Blenheim was announced Queensland Mother of the Year in the 2009 Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year awards.

It was Thomas Edison who said, 'My mother was the making of me. She was so true and so sure of me I felt that I had someone to live for, someone I must not disappoint.' Therefore, it comes as no surprise that Barbara Pope was nominated for this award by her son Dan Pope, who was by her side when she was announced the winner. He was extremely proud and deeply moved by her win. I know that all present at the ceremony drew strength from hearing the amazing stories and felt privileged to be surrounded by so many inspirational mums.

Despite having three children of her own, Barbara Pope has fostered and adopted children from desperate situations since 1977. Short-term, long-term, emergency care and pre-adoption infants were rarely turned away. One of Barbara's strongest beliefs is that equality and respect for others is paramount, especially for those less fortunate than themselves. Barbara's special motto is, 'You only get out of life what you put in.' Barbara was shocked, humbled and honoured when she was announced Queensland Mother of the Year. There were three short-listed Queensland finalists who are worthy and who deserve congratulations. The other short-listed finalists are Rosemary Dailly of Gympie and Kathy Smith of Jimboomba.

Barbara will now attend the national function in Sydney on Thursday just before Mother's Day along with seven other state finalists. I know that she will do Queensland proud. I wish her every success. I hope she brings the national title home to Queensland. It is a great way to honour all the great mothers in Queensland. It is a fantastic event and it was very worthy to be there.