



Speech by  
**Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Tuesday, 23 November 2010

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## **BRISBANE CENTRAL ELECTORATE, AWARDS**

**Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (10.39 pm): It was a pleasure on Wednesday, 10 November 2010 to attend the New Farm Neighbourhood Centre's Community Action Network Awards function. The CAN Awards provide an opportunity to highlight people and programs that make a difference through building community and inclusion.

There is incredible work towards social justice taking place across Brisbane's inner north every day of every year. The CAN Awards are now in their 12th year of honouring people and organisations for their hard work towards making a positive difference for people in the inner-Brisbane community. For example, previous winner Dave McCartney, a good friend, is a well-known advocate for homeless people who highlighted the significance of the awards and what they represent when he gave a typically inspiring speech in 2008 in which he stated that the CAN Awards represented all those people who have made him what he is today.

The CAN Awards in 2010 had 10 categories, and I congratulate all winners. Warm congratulations to Ann Mitchell from the 139 Club, who won the Outstanding Community Leader, the Ron Muir Award; Meredith Briggs from Cafe Bouquiniste, who won the Accessibility and Community Facilities Development category; Marina Thacker, who won the Participatory Process Award; Sophia Bookallil, who won the Volunteering in the Community category; Rodney Kelly of the 139 Club, who won the Homelessness Services Award; Company Bright Bags, who won the Private Enterprise or Development—Fostering Social Justice Award; Carmella Chillemi, an old school mate from the Brisbane Housing Co., who won the Contribution to Affordable Housing category; Vulcana Women's Circus, who won the Community Spirit Award; Colman Ridge, winner of the Environment and Sustainability Award; and Kenneth Georgetown from Murri Watch, who won the Colin Collins special award. Congratulations once again to all winners and finalists. Thank you to the LGBT Choir, who entertained all present. I look forward to next year's awards where, once again, very worthy members of our inner-Brisbane community will be rewarded for a job well done.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Senior Sergeant Corey Allen, who was nominated as a finalist in the Queensland Local Hero Australian of the Year 2010 Awards, and Shelley Argent OAM, PFLAG and gay rights activist, who won the Queensland Senior Australian of the Year. Senior Sergeant Corey Allen and his wife, Tracey, were present at the function. He is a very worthy nominee. Corey is an excellent, committed and dedicated police officer who does outstanding work in the Brisbane CBD particularly focused on the issues of youth, homelessness and public safety and has introduced several innovative programs to tackle these issues. He brings a common-sense approach to his job and is passionate about helping members of the public who find themselves in difficult situations. It is a pleasure to know and work with Corey, and I wish him all the very best in his future career.

Shelley Argent's work in promoting the rights of members of the LGBT community is second to none, and she has devoted herself to encouraging understanding and acceptance of this often marginalised group. She is an outstanding member of the community who believes in and fights for equality for all, regardless of their sexual orientation. Congratulations to both on a job well done. They are fantastic Queenslanders and they make the state of Queensland a very proud state.