



Speech by


**Annastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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## **SOUTH WEST PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.00 pm): Last Saturday I was honoured to attend the South West Progress Association's annual Community and Queensland Day Awards at the Lions soccer club with my good friend and local councillor Milton Dick. These awards are now in their fifth year and recognise the great work that volunteers do in our community. Volunteers across the electorate provide an invaluable service, contributing their own time supporting different community projects and initiatives with one common goal: to assist the community. On Saturday we gathered to recognise 18 people who have served our community with distinction. I take the opportunity to make a special mention of a few.

Richard Sowden, at the age of 18, is the youngest person to ever receive a Community and Queensland Day Award. Richard is currently undertaking his senior year at Forest Lake State High School. He can be described as a selfless teenager, always thinking of others. He is actively involved in his student council, representing his school at open day and Anzac Day, and in his spare time volunteers at the Forest Lake Salvation Army. He works in the grounds and gardens and is always willing to lend a hand when needed. Richard is a fine example of a leader of tomorrow.

Another award recipient, Marie Shinde, is another example of a person who is selfless. Marie has volunteered for over 30 years at Canossa hospital—helping patients with their daily activities, assisting with meal times and being a shoulder to cry on and a smiling face to talk to. If this is not enough, Marie also volunteers at the St Mark's parish—visiting the elderly, driving them to their appointments or church and providing them with someone to talk to. Richard, Marie and all award recipients symbolise what it means to be a Queenslanders—being there for others in your community in times of need without asking for anything in return.

Another recipient I want to mention is 'Johnno' Johnston. Johnno is from the Inala Blue Fin Fishing Club. Some members might ask why we have a fishing club in Inala. In fact, it is the largest fishing club in South-East Queensland. I am very proud that this fishing club is located in my electorate. Johnno Johnston has helped young people from a disadvantaged background for many years now. Basically, what he does is take these young people on fishing expeditions. They would never have had the opportunity to do so if it were not for Johnno.

There are so many other people that I cannot mention them all this evening, but I do congratulate all 18 people. They are fine examples of people who put others before themselves. They give up time with their friends and their family to put their community first and put people first. I congratulate each and every one of them on being recipients of this year's Inala Community and Queensland Day Awards.