




Speech by

Hon. Desley Boyle

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard Thursday, 16 February 2012

CAIRNS ELECTORATE, WOMEN

 **Hon. D BOYLE** (Cairns—ALP) (3.37 pm): Over the last decade we have seen women come into their own and take up many high-profile and leadership positions in Cairns and the region—led by Lesley Clark, who was the former member for Barron River; followed by Jan McLucas, a senator from Far North Queensland; the mayor of Cairns, Val Schier, who is our first female mayor; and the first female CEO of the Cairns Regional Council, Lyn Russell. Of our high-ranking public servants, we have Cairns health district CEO Julie Hartley-Jones and the director for the region in DEEDI is Anne Clark. In fact on the Cairns Regional Council a majority of councillors are women. I call to mind a former councillor—a good mate of mine—Deirdre Ford, who was for many years a very staunch worker against domestic violence in our community and for child protection. They may be high-profile leaders in Cairns but there have been hundreds of women who have worked quietly behind the scenes for a better chance for their children and families and for the city of Cairns—women like Maisie Boland, who sadly passed on this year, and Jackie Clarkson, who has devoted her retirement years to a variety of causes.

In business, the story is the same. The Cairns Business Women's Club is a huge club which meets monthly and in which there are very many young women in the professions and running businesses in town. It is a very different time in Cairns than it was 14 years ago when I was first elected as the member for Cairns. Sadly, however, there are still some men in Cairns who need to learn the lesson of true gender equality and what a better community it is when you have women available and able to take their proper role in our society.