



Speech by


# Freya Ostapovitch

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Hansard Wednesday, 22 August 2012

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## LIONS CLUB, CODE OF ETHICS

 **Mrs OSTAPOVITCH** (Stretton—LNP) (10.42 pm): I rise to speak tonight on my local Lions Club that meets at the Runcorn Tavern twice a month. I am honoured to be involved with an organisation that does so much good work for the community and promotes a healthy and decent philosophy. Each time we meet, we recall our code of ethics and I would like to share some parts of this with the House. I note that some in particular are a challenge in this chamber. They include 'to remember that in building yourself up it is not necessary to tear another down'. Also—

Always to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state and my community, and to give them my unwavering loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labour and means.

To aid others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak and my substance to the needy.

To be careful with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

After my first couple of sittings in this chamber, I did wonder if it was possible to keep parts of this code. I have done my best and, to my recollection, I have not attacked anyone in this chamber on a personal level and I hope I never do. However, I am disappointed that those in the opposition clearly do not share this philosophy. Indeed, over the last three months I have been sworn at by the member for South Brisbane, another opposition member has attempted to intimidate me by telling me that I had better be careful as they were coming after me, and then yesterday there was the personal attack from the member for Bundamba. I have to say that it reminds me of my high school days when I was the victim of schoolyard bullying by girls who thought they were more important than anyone else.

I find it quite extraordinary that such childish behaviour should find its way into the chamber. However, I remind myself of the other pledge of sorts that we hear when we start each day—that is, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Therefore, I forgive those who attempt to intimidate and hope that they may find wisdom in the Lions code of ethics, even if they are not a Lion. Surely the office of a parliamentarian should have as high a standard as that of a Lion, if not higher.