


Speech by  
**Jackie Trad**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

Hansard Wednesday, 1 August 2012

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## OLYMPIC GAMES

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (8.39 pm): Queenslanders, like millions around the world, have spent the last four days glued to their TVs watching our most talented athletes perform on the world stage. As a mother of an eight-year-old it has been very satisfying for me watching him experience and appreciate the Olympics for the first time in his life. It is also rewarding to build an appreciation in him of the spirit of the Olympics to promote a peaceful and better world through mutual understanding with the spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.

As this will be the only sitting week during the London Olympics, I want to place on record my congratulations to the Australian athletes who are proudly representing our country. There are just over 400 Australian athletes competing in London, with a quarter of them born in Queensland. These athletes follow Queensland's strong sporting tradition. From local community clubs to world-class sports facilities, Queenslanders love a good sporting competition.

Most Queenslanders would agree that there is something uniquely captivating and inspiring about the Olympic Games. Every four years it gives people from around the world the opportunity to come together in a celebration of sport and personal achievement. Anyone who watched Emily Seebohm's interview after her 100-metre backstroke final would also acknowledge that the Olympics places incredible pressure on athletes, particularly so in the age of social media. These athletes have spent most of their lives working, preparing and training day and night so that they can one day represent their country at the Olympics. While winning a gold medal or any medal at all at the Olympics is a remarkable achievement that should be celebrated, we should not forget that simply participating in an Olympics or the Paralympics is incredible in and of itself.

I would like to say to Ms Seebohm and all other Queensland athletes competing in the 2012 London Olympics that regardless of the result we are incredibly proud of your efforts. Win or lose you have done this state proud. For having trained and qualified and representing Australia at the Olympics we already consider you champions.