




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Blyth, Ms D, AO

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.16 pm): I rise to pay tribute to Denise Blyth OAM the Coomera electorate nominee for the inaugural Queensland Inspiring Women-Speaker's Awards. We will be celebrating the awards at a breakfast tomorrow morning in the Premiers and Speakers halls. Denise Blyth is a tower of strength to us all and definitely demonstrates the hallmarks of a true pioneer, which is the theme for this year's awards. Denise joined the Coomera branch of the Queensland Country Women's Association, the QCWA, in 1981 and has held the positions of vice president, president, secretary and treasurer numerous times. For example, she was president from 1984 to 1988 and 1999 to 2000; vice president from 1983 to 1984, 1996 to 1998 and 2001 to 2002; secretary from 1995 to 1996 and 2004 to 2007; treasurer from 1991 to 1995; and acting treasurer from 2005 to 2007. She was awarded a 'For Service Bar' in 1996. They are not lightly given, I can assure honourable members.

She also held the position of divisional president and state council member for the south-eastern division. She was also an entrant and finalist for Country Woman of the Year in 1995. Denise has been instrumental and a driving force behind the relocation of the QCWA hall at Hillview to a parcel of land beside the Coomera branch hall and organising it to open on the 50th anniversary for the division in December 2010. This hall now holds records and archives from branches all over the division which she is still tirelessly sorting. Not only has the Coomera branch benefitted from her hard work; she has helped others stop the closure of branches and urged them to carry on.

For many years, especially at Christmas, Denise has been taking items collected by various branch members to Majella House, a women's refuge on the Gold Coast. As another example of her efforts, in the 2010-11 floods the QCWA collected items for Grantham. Denise made contact with a Grantham resident who came down, and for many weeks she met with him and gave him goods to take back to Grantham. This is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the work she has done without expectation of reward for her efforts. Denise displays an inspirational sense of leadership and community spirit, working tirelessly for the benefit of the community. Denise will do anything needed to help her community. The local and broader community is a much better place because of Denise and her altruistic commitment to help out others.