



Speech By  
**Hon. Fiona Simpson**


**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2014

**SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**

**Hansard, Sesquicentenary**

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Yesterday marked 150 years since the Queensland parliament voted to allocate a budget to fund the wages and then printing costs to produce the first volume of the parliament's official record of debates, or *Hansard*. Queensland is believed to be the third parliament in the world to establish an official *Hansard* record, following the parliaments of Nova Scotia in Canada and then South Australia. Our *Hansard* was established 45 years prior to the British parliament employing parliamentary reporters to publish official records of its debates. We also have the distinction of being the first jurisdiction in the world to publish a daily *Hansard* record when the parliament commenced doing this in 1876.

Given that, it seems fitting to take a moment to acknowledge our *Hansard* staff. You are the silent transcribers of history and we recognise the work you do to ensure that the people of Queensland have an accurate representation of the deliberations of their elected representatives. We thank you for your diligence and professionalism.

I also want to acknowledge those who made speeches to honour the work of *Hansard* last night: Professor Roly Sussex OAM; former Premier, the Hon. Russell Cooper AM; president of the media gallery and state political editor of the *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail*, Steven Wardill; and the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie. I shall later be tabling their speeches for the information of the House.

I advise members that the display created for the 150th anniversary of *Hansard* is on display in the red chamber for your viewing and is a remarkable telling of the journey of our parliament and its debates.