




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2015

**VACANCY IN SENATE OF COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA: ELECTION OF SENATOR**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.12 pm): It is with great pleasure and pride that I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier to endorse the nomination of Joanna Lindgren as the new Queensland senator. In that regard I pass on my thanks and congratulations to retiring senator Dr Brett Mason and wish him well in the future.

It is wonderful to see Joanna's husband Peter and other family and friends up in the gallery here today. Just prior to this I had an opportunity to speak with them, and the obvious pride that they have in Joanna is wonderful to see. As has been said many times today, Joanna's great-uncle, Liberal senator Neville Bonner, was the first Indigenous Australian to become a member of the federal parliament. I congratulate Joanna on her appointment as Queensland's first female Indigenous senator. She is following in her family's tradition of strong passion for community and public service.

Joanna Lindgren is a person of very high integrity and the courage of her convictions, and she is exactly the right candidate to fill this high office. At heart she is a community member who has always worked hard for her community. She has spent time as an Army reservist, she assists local Rotary clubs and she works very hard for local charities. What impressed me most about Joanna was her dedication to the improvement of our educational services. Joanna's background in education has seen her work with Indigenous communities to develop and implement policies and programs that have been trialled and implemented at a statewide level. We are all aware of the difficulties that our communities face with youth engagement and the importance of education at ground level working with communities—not against them—and delivering programs based on a hand up, not a handout.

My husband Jason spent some time with Joanna talking about their shared passion of Indigenous education, and it was he, as a great judge of character, who said to me, 'Joanna would make a perfect senator.' I believe that this understanding of Indigenous education will assist Joanna to become a very strong and valuable member of the Australian Senate. I pass on my congratulations and sincere best wishes, and with that I support this nomination.