



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Inspiring Women's Awards; Pyjama Foundation

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (1.27 am): I rise tonight to speak about a fantastic event that was held recently in Gladstone, the inaugural Inspiring Women's Awards. I was thrilled to attend this event with Minister Shannon Fentiman during her recent trip to Gladstone. The awards attracted 190 attendees, an amazing achievement for the maiden ceremony, and was organised by the Gladstone Women's Health Centre. Tash Fee and her team did a fantastic job in organising the celebration and in shining the spotlight on some inspiring local women.

Irene Dudley was recognised as the first Inspiring Woman of the Year. Irene is selflessly devoted to helping others and proves, through her volunteering and dedication to our community, that one person can truly make a difference. Irene inspires other women with her passion, her strength of character and her determination.

The Young Woman of the Year was awarded to Ruby Lawler. Although Ruby has a rare chromosome deletion disability, she has achieved many accolades in her young life, including attending the Special Olympics as an athlete leader and claiming five medals in swimming events, completing a Certificate III in child care and facilitating her own creative arts group at the Gladstone Community Hub, to name just a few.

There was also another very important award given out, the Heroic Woman of the Year. This award was presented to a woman from the community who could not be publically named for legal reasons. After enduring violent assaults at the hands of her partner and being left with nothing, this woman has drawn on her own inner strength to live independently, now helping and supporting other victims and survivors of domestic violence.

During the ceremony, I was thrilled to accept the first-ever male membership—a significant milestone in the 22-year history of the centre in Gladstone. The membership certificate sits proudly in my office and I look forward to playing a role in assisting the centre in the vital work that it does.

I take this last minute of my speech to also mention that tomorrow is national Pyjama Foundation day. My office has done some very good work potentially for the kids—220 kids in care in Gladstone—who need a special little treat every now and then. We are setting our target for 220 pairs of pyjamas for kids in care in Gladstone. If we can get close to that, I will be a very happy politician in Gladstone to help support the kids in care in Gladstone.