




Speech By
Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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ADJOURNMENT

Baker, Ms C and House, Ms K

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (7.01 pm): I start by welcoming in the gallery tonight my brother-in-law, my niece who was interjecting earlier on, my sister-in-law and her parents. They are all passionate Labor people and huge passionate supporters of my election campaign.

I rise tonight to express my congratulations to a couple of women's Rugby League stars in my electorate. Chelsea Baker from the Wallabies club and Kodi House from the Calliope club have been selected to be involved in the Jillaroos train-on squad for next season. The sport of women's Rugby League has grown immensely in the last three years in Gladstone from the initial days when the Gladstone Raidettes were formed to give the game of Rugby League a go.

I pay special mention to Sarah Stewart, who approached me in 2012 to assist with forming a team in the local competition. Her dedication to this sport has been absolutely inspirational and the sport is in a fantastic position thanks to her efforts over many years. It is from these early days that Chelsea and Kodi have developed and are now true heroes to many young girls looking to play the game of Rugby League in Gladstone.

I played Rugby League with Kodi's father, Lloyd House, and he was one of the hardest running forwards in the game in Central Queensland. Tragically Lloyd passed away a few years ago and I am sure that he would be very proud of his beautiful and very talented daughter, Kodi. I can see many of Lloyd's attributes in Kodi.

Chelsea Baker is not only a speed machine on the field but a very talented footballer. She is also a mother of two young children. Between her and her husband they manage to raise the kids and both play touch football at the highest level, as well as play Rugby League together.

Both of these local champions represented the record-breaking Queensland women's Rugby League team that was successful over their blues counterparts in Townsville earlier on in the year. To see the skills that both girls displayed was absolutely fantastic and the effort that they put in was an absolute delight to watch. From Kodi's bone-jarring defence to Chelsea's skilful attacking raids, these girls made Gladstone proud to the bone. It was great to see Chelsea Baker score Queensland's only try that secured the trophy for Queensland this year, and seeing the elation on their faces after that game will remain with me for a lifetime. Both of these girls are dedicated to the sport of Rugby League and they have been inspiring to say the least, and I will be thrilled to bits when I can sit back and watch them when they have the opportunity to represent their country in the near future.