




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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ADJOURNMENT

QMusic Awards

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (10.09 pm): They say that music is the universal language, so I was delighted to be given the opportunity to attend the 2015 QMusic Awards that were held at the Powerhouse, one of my favourite buildings in my electorate. I was also given the honour of not only opening the QMusic event on behalf of the Premier, but to also present the Indigenous award which went to The Medics for the catchy tune *Wake Up*. I want to congratulate the winners and writers of the song Kahl Wallace, Jhindu Lawrie, Andrew Thompson and Charles Thomas. I urge all of you to go onto YouTube and have a listen—it is well worth it.

It was great to see the music industry out in force, and there truly was an impressive line-up of music being performed all night as we celebrated Queensland's songwriters and musicians. The Queensland music awards are a statewide search for Queensland's best and most innovative songwriters and musicians. It is a night that the awards turn a spotlight on the talented Queensland artists who are making music people want to hear.

The awards span a variety of musical styles, with an impressive mix of established and emerging musicians in the running this year. The contemporary music sector in Queensland is a powerful and dynamic element of Queensland's diverse arts and cultural offering. As a government, we are happy to see that Queensland musicians are making a name for themselves nationally and internationally. We are even more pleased that the sector is employing artists, developing new work, seeding innovation and contributing to the economy.

As we all know, the Palaszczuk government was elected with a key commitment to job creation. We appreciate the cultural value of the arts and music specifically, but we also appreciate the economic contribution of this industry to our state. The Music Council of Australia places the collective worth of Australian music industries at between \$7 billion and \$8 billion. Nationally, live contemporary music generates around \$831 million to the economy and supports almost 8,000 Australian jobs. Contemporary music already has a proven role in Queensland cultural tourism. Bigsound, QMusic's annual signature conference, draws attendees from around the world to what is the biggest music industry event in the Southern Hemisphere.

I want to thank all the musicians who performed at the QMusic Awards. I especially enjoyed Sahara Beck. We have a right to feel proud about the talent that is here in Queensland, and we should be doing our best to support and future their craft.

Finally, I would like to give a special thank you to Michael Crutcher, the president of QMusic, and Joel Edmonson, QMusic's executive officer, for their ongoing tireless work and for putting on such an inspiring night of great Queensland music and talent. If I get the opportunity, I look forward to going there again next year. It really is a fantastic line-up of the very best that Queensland has to offer. It is fantastic music. Congratulations to all the winners.