



Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2015

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.43 pm): I rise to speak of my first 100 days representing the people of Ipswich as a proud member of the Palaszczuk government. During the past 100 days I have had the pleasure of meeting with school principals, sporting clubs, businesses and arts communities, community organisations, churches and charities and I have met with hundreds of Ipswich people. Everyone I have met has shown an optimism for the future of their city of Ipswich. This optimism has been echoed at events like the Harmony Day festival and the citizenship ceremony that I attended. This optimism has been particularly echoed by the women and girls I have spoken with from the PCYC and Ipswich Girls' Grammar School at International Women's Day events in March. It is no surprise that there is optimism from the women and girls I speak with when the Palaszczuk government has women numbering more than 37 per cent of its members, providing a truer representation of our general population.

I am proud to be part of a Labor government that has reinstated the Premier's Literary Awards. Recently, I spoke at a breakfast titled 'Can the arts transform Ipswich?' and when I mentioned the Premier's announcement, which had just been made the night before, there was resounding applause from everybody. I also was outraged when the Newman government axed the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards as one of its first moves upon attaining government. This groundswell of support for the awards is echoed by everybody and I am very pleased that, once again, Queensland has a government that values the arts, including literature, as part of the cultural life of Queenslanders.

This Labor government has committed to rescuing our TAFEs, with a \$34 million statewide package and the allocation of more guidance officers and more teachers to local schools. I have also had the pleasure of launching an information forum in my electorate for restoring the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.

Accountability and transparency are not just the words of this government; they are actions, as are integrity and fairness. This Palaszczuk government is a government of accountability, transparency, integrity and fairness. This government is committed to good governance through the reforms to political donation rules, restoring the lower disclosure rate of \$1,000, unlike those opposite who did not want anyone to know where their large donations of up to \$12,800 came from. We have made these donation rules retrospective from November 2013, when the former LNP government introduced the changes.

This government has committed to restoring funding to tenancy advocacy and to wonderful organisations such as the Ipswich Regional Advocacy Service, which helps around 600 tenants a month in the Ipswich and wider region. I look forward to continuing to represent the people of Ipswich as part of the Palaszczuk government.