




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Quota International

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.54 pm): I rise to speak about the 55th anniversary of Quota International in Ipswich. I recently had the pleasure of attending Quota International of Ipswich's 55th birthday afternoon tea at the Ipswich Turf Club in my electorate. It was tremendous to be given the opportunity to be a part of this celebration and commemoration of the women who came together with a vision and a purpose to serve the Ipswich community 55 years ago.

I am sure that back in 1919, when Wanda Frey Joiner founded Quota in New York as a service club for women, she never envisaged a Quota International in Ipswich, Queensland. I am sure that she never dared to think that her actions would inspire women in 266 clubs, in 14 countries across the world, to work together to make their communities better and to reach out to those less fortunate across the world.

Working with like-minded women around the world must be empowering. In my position as the member for Ipswich, I feel the great joy of seeing so many women in the parliament, and particularly so many Labor women. We are not quite at 50 per cent, but we are getting there. We all need to remember that women are still under-represented in the boardrooms and managerial positions of the world.

That fact was evident to Quota founder Wanda Frey Joiner. But she forged through as a beacon for all women, and almost 100 years later in 2015 it is appropriate that we celebrate her legacy and vision. I congratulate Ipswich's Quotarians for their dedication to Quota's ideals, which can be summed up in the Quota motto 'We share'.

Quota International of Ipswich is an essential part of the fabric that holds our city together. That the club has now been running strong for 55 years is a testament to the commitment of those women who have dedicated themselves to the ideals of advancing righteousness, justice and goodwill in our community. I acknowledge and thank Ipswich's Quotarians for the work they do in our city. I congratulate them on the care and concern that reaches across borders to those who are less fortunate. I wish them well for the next 55 years.