



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Inspiring Women's Awards

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (9.43 pm): I rise tonight to speak about a fantastic event that was recently held in Gladstone which is now in its second year: the Inspiring Women's Awards. The Gladstone Women's Health Centre hosted the awards, which are an opportunity to shine a spotlight on some inspiring local women in our community. It was a proud moment for me, with my daughter Taylor nominated in the inspiring young women's award category for her dedicated and incredible fitness journey.

The inspiring young woman of the year was awarded to 15-year-old Delaney Burke. As a former Calliope State School vice-captain, and more recently a Chanel College middle year school leader, Delaney thrives in her leadership roles, encouraging others to be a positive role model. This year 10 student has excelled in her academic studies, especially English, where she has come first for the past two years and which she channels into her love for debating and public speaking. Delaney is one busy young woman, finding time for singing, piano and speech and drama classes. Delaney is most comfortable and happy on the stage. Performing arts are her passion and she loves every minute of it.

Sharradean Stringer took out the award for inspiring woman of the year. Sharradean is a supervisor at the Roseberry Community Services centre and Roseberry House youth shelter. She arrives every day to work pumped and motivated. It is safe to say that Sharradean loves her job and is humbled by this award, believing that not only does she get to be surrounded by strong, supportive work colleagues but also every day she gets to go to work and fight for a child or a young person's rights—rights which Sharradean says include the right to have a safe place and a bed; to have food in their belly; to engage in education and employment; to have clothes to wear and access to free sanitary items; to have a voice; and, most importantly, to be listened to. In her spare time Sharradean campaigns for many worthwhile causes, including not putting children in adult prisons and sharing dignity.

There was also another very important award which I had the absolute honour to present on the morning, and that was for the heroic woman of the year. This award was presented to a woman from the community who could not be publicly named for legal, cultural or private reasons. A private ceremony was held later in her honour. The heroic woman of the year has endured significant hardship and turmoil in her life, going on to be an advocate and a strength for other women in our community.

It was a fantastic event again this year and it was great to be in a room filled with inspirational women celebrating their achievements, their courage and their success. I congratulate all the nominees and award winners. I also acknowledge the Gladstone Women's Health Centre once again for the fantastic work they do in our community of Gladstone to help women along their journey in life.