




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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ADJOURNMENT

Member for Mudgeeraba, Shadow Ministry Responsibilities

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (1.39 am): Like so many of my shadow cabinet colleagues, I have well and truly hit the ground running in my first month as shadow minister for communities, women and youth, child safety and the prevention of domestic and family violence and shadow minister for disability services and seniors. This shadow portfolio spreads across two ministerial portfolios and is truly wide ranging and diverse. Already I have seen how this is a portfolio made up of wonderful people across a variety of sectors who contribute to making our Queensland community a better place to live.

I have been meeting with stakeholders, attending events, hearing different views and getting to know exactly what it is that we can improve from a policy perspective to make Queensland stronger, more inclusive and more understanding. The first Friday after my appointment, I attended the Queensland Volunteering Awards presentation and recognition ceremony at Brisbane City Hall—a terrific demonstration of the power of volunteering and the way lives can be shaped by the unpaid efforts of a dedicated few.

After that I visited the Post School Options Expo run by BigDog Support Services—a great organisation committed to ensuring that people with a disability have a choice and can live as independently as possible. The next day I was delighted to attend the Queenslanders with Disability Change Forum, which highlighted that people with a disability are leading, influencing and affecting change across different parts of our community. After this I attended the Queensland Young Achiever Awards gala presentation dinner which recognised and rewarded young people who are achieving great things.

The next weekend I was pleased to attend the DigniTEA fundraising event hosted by Share the Dignity in recognition of international Menstrual Hygiene Day, which falls on 28 May. The week after I attended the Domestic Violence Homicide Forum here in parliament. The week after that I was off to Ashgrove to visit Hear and Say and hear about the great work they do to change the lives of children diagnosed with hearing issues, speech, language or developmental delays.

As well as supporting these groups by attending their terrific events, I have also been inviting stakeholders to come and meet with me so they know they have a voice in the LNP opposition. I have met with the Isolated Children's Parents' Association; the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence; the Australian Christian Lobby; Taxi Council Queensland; Diversity with Harmony; the CREATE Foundation; Silky Oaks Children's Haven; BUSHkids; QCOSS; Star Community Transport Group, alongside their local member, the member for Redlands; National Disability Services; and Life Without Barriers. This morning I attended the QCOSS post budget breakfast. These are hardworking stakeholders who work every day to make our state more compassionate, more empathetic and full of more opportunities for our most vulnerable. As both a nurse and survivor of domestic violence, I am looking forward to ensuring that, even under this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government, these sectors have someone representing them in this place.