




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Chatsworth Electorate, Justices of the Peace

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.14 pm): I rise this evening to congratulate six unsung local champions from my electorate. I am so proud of all the volunteers my Chatsworth electorate boasts. We have many community groups who do great work with taking care of our waterways, running community groups, hosting fairs and creating awareness for a number of worthwhile issues. However, amongst all the work of these volunteers I take privilege in mentioning some of our unsung heroes. These heroes do not wear capes, they do not hold signs, they do not stand on the front line in times of crisis, no, but they do hold a stamp and provide a service which many of us in this hallowed chamber have used ourselves at one point in time or another. These local heroes are our JPs and ComDecs.

Just last week I hosted a morning tea in my office to celebrate the dedication and unwavering commitment of six long-serving JPs. These were David Forward, Mike Griffin, Helen Gainer, David Shellshear, Keith Metcalf and Warren Beal. These six individuals have collectively provided over 180 years of service to Chatsworth and Queenslanders as JPs. I had the honour to present long-service awards for 25 years of service to Helen, David, Keith and Warren, and long-service awards for 40 years of service to Mike and David.

In Queensland alone there are almost 80,000 registered JPs and Commissioners for Declarations, including the likes of JP ComDecs, and JP Magistrate Courts. Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations volunteer to serve the public by signing documents that need a qualified witness. This can include witnessing and signing formal documents and hearing certain types of court matters. By volunteering their time and expertise, they allow lawyers and the courts to concentrate on more complex legal matters. JPs and ComDecs are indeed an essential part of Queensland's legal system. They help to keep our courts free from smaller matters by witnessing statutory declarations, affidavits and administering oaths and affirmations. This role can often be a thankless process as many of our JPs and ComDecs give up mornings, afternoons and weekends to provide the service to the general public. When one considers that Queensland's population is in excess of four million people, our JPs and ComDecs certainly keep busy.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the six JPs who attended my morning tea, hearing about their careers as well as getting to know them personally. It was indeed an absolute pleasure to host these great, hardworking individuals and I look forward to my next morning tea and meeting many more of our dedicated JPs and ComDecs. I salute them all, those in my Chatsworth electorate and those who proudly serve the people of Queensland throughout this great state.