




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Queensland Olympians; Bravery Awards

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.10 pm): Nothing—
Government members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: We know the true style of the Labor Party: nothing excites them and that is because they do nothing, they have nothing and they know nothing, as they continue to demonstrate in this House.

Nothing quite gets the patriotic blood pumping faster than the Olympic Games. It is a great time to be not only an Australian but also, and importantly, a Queenslander. We have seen some fantastic efforts from our athletes at Rio, with Queenslanders leading the charge from Cate and Bronte Campbell, Cameron McEvoy, Mitch Larkin and Emily Seebohm, to all our swimmers who did us proud in the pool. While our swimmers normally get most of the attention, let us not forget the other superb athletes who have toiled away and trained for years to realise their dreams and to represent Australia. They too should be recognised and honoured: Kingaroy's beach volleyball player Taliqua Clancy, Ipswich's Leah Neale and Gympie's Matt Swann. Who could forget the Australian Women's Rugby Sevens team—a team packed with Queenslanders who won the sport's first ever gold medal. Members here will know my fondness for the sport of Rugby in all its iterations.

But there is one person who defines what it is to be a Queenslander, and that is Rockhampton's Anna Meares. Shortly before the Beijing Olympics Anna was involved in a horror crash and there were fears she could become a quadriplegic. Travelling at close to 70 kilometres an hour she hit the velodrome hard, hip first, then shoulder and then head. She fractured vertebrae near the base of her skull, but it was her sheer determination and willpower that saw Anna get back on the bike to realise her Olympic dream. Anna Meares has gone on to become one of Australia's most admired and respected athletes—indeed, carrying the flag for the team. I personally think that nothing could be more fitting than to name the state's newly built world-class velodrome at Chandler in her honour. The Anna Meares Velodrome certainly has a nice ring to it. Premier, I urge you to make the suggestion a reality sooner rather than later.

That brings me to those other Queenslanders, those unsung men and women who do extraordinary things in the face of adversity. Today we saw 49 Queenslanders honoured and recognised in the Australian Bravery Awards; ordinary men and women who find themselves in life-or-death situations and have no hesitation in stepping up to the plate for their fellow Queenslanders, and I congratulate those people.

Speaking of those heroes, we welcome home our Olympians on 2 September. I think a parade has been organised for Brisbane, and I look forward to being there. I urge all Queenslanders to be there. I look forward to welcoming home people like Anna Meares, who only yesterday said she is looking forward to—

(Time expired)