




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Order of Australia Association, Central Queensland Region

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.09 pm): I rise today to acknowledge the work and the efforts of the Order of Australia Association in my electorate of Rockhampton. The Order membership is made up of people who have received awards in recognition of their contribution to our country from the Order of Australia Association, our premier national awards organisation. The Order of Australia Association Central Queensland region, convened by Mr Ray Young OAM, who sits on the board of the Queensland division, recognises that many ordinary people in the electorate of Rockhampton make wonderful contributions to our society. It understands that recognising these people and engaging them to provide ongoing community leadership is vital for socio-economic development in our region. I for one am very aware that the ongoing economic development in any place is heavily dependent upon social cohesion and a community shared sense of purpose and intend to do what I can to support such approaches in Rockhampton.

Experience is showing that well-established and often large organisations in business, government, education and civil society have a much greater capacity to do the necessary work to nominate their employees than small organisations and community members. As a result, much of the work undertaken by ordinary volunteers goes unrecognised simply because of a lack of understanding of what is required to nominate people and then to develop a suitable nomination. To this end the Order in Central Queensland is embarking upon a community program to raise awareness of the awards, to identify suitable applicants and to support those wishing to nominate community members.

Recently, the Order of Australia Association Central Queensland region conducted a very successful public forum in Rockhampton. The guest speakers were Dimity Dornan OA and Queensland Senior Australian of the Year 2018 and Peter Milne AM, chairman of Animal Health Australia. I was fortunate to attend this annual morning tea function and I was very impressed by what the guest speakers presented and the interest shown by members of my electorate.

I congratulate the efforts of the Order of Australia Association Central Queensland region to ensure that those who have been awarded recognition by the Order of Australia Association can continue to play a leadership role in my electorate and for their efforts to encourage more nominations to the order.