




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Neumann, Ms N

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.36 pm): I was honoured last week to attend the Sunshine Coast police honours and awards ceremony at Kawana. The Queensland Police Service has a long tradition of acknowledging its officers for the bravery, tenacity and professional conduct they display in many of the decisions they make and the actions they take every day. I was enormously proud to be there for the presentation of the second annual Russell Sheehan Award. I worked with Russell Sheehan in the Child Protection and Investigation Unit. He was a well-liked and very highly regarded detective. Tragically, Russell took his own life two days before Christmas 2015, but his memory lives on with the annual presentation of this award in his name.

This prestigious award is bestowed upon a Sunshine Coast detective who possesses the skills and qualities Russell displayed every day in his duties: professionalism, diligence, dependability and consistency along with a high work ethic and being a valued team member who provides guidance and mentors others. This year I am proud to report to the parliament that the recipient of this award was Detective Senior Constable Natascha Neumann. Tasch Neumann is an outstanding detective who strives every day to emulate the attributes displayed by Russell Sheehan while serving the people of Queensland. I am also proud to say that I worked closely with Tasch at the CPIU. I remember when she first came to relieve in our office when she was still a uniformed officer at Maroochydore Police Station. I was lucky when she later became a member of my team. I had the privilege of watching her progress and develop into one of the best detectives not only on the Sunshine Coast but also in this state.

Just one of the examples of why Natascha Neumann won this prestigious award is an operation she commenced into a paedophile ring that had committed horrific and prolonged sexual abuse upon a number of innocent and vulnerable young boys. This operation resulted in the arrest of two adult males who I am pleased to report are now locked up in prison. In fact, my last official duty as a detective on the afternoon before the last state election was to attend the Maroochydore District Court, where I watched the main offender in this operation get sentenced to 16 years in prison for committing 76 serious sexual offences on these young boys.

Detective Senior Constable Neumann was the principal investigator and arresting officer in this operation, and this is just one of the examples of why she was a worthy recipient of the annual Russell Sheehan award. I also want to acknowledge David Drinnen, Daren Edwards, Craig Mansfield, Chris Eaton and Chris Hart on receiving a commissioner certificate as part of their work with the Drug and Serious Crime Task Force.