




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Mackay Electorate, Australian South Sea Islanders

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (7.22 pm): I had the pleasure of attending the Mackay Australian South Sea islander recognition morning tea and family day on 25 August. The *Queensland Multicultural Policy: Our story, our future* includes a statement of recognition for the Australian South Sea islanders' unique history. The theme of the celebrations this year was 'Embracing our South Sea islander women: through the generations'. Starrett Veve, the president of the Mackay and District Australian South Sea Islander Association, MADASSIA, awarded five strong community women with recognition.

The Sportsperson Award was bestowed on Hayley Elston for her outstanding achievement in hockey. She started out at a young age representing her school and then was selected to represent Mackay. Hayley will be representing Queensland at the national titles later this year in Hobart. Hayley is on her way to reaching her goal to represent Australia in women's hockey.

The Academic Achievement Award recipient was Betty Penola. She is leading the way in her community by showing that a university level of education is achievable. She is a fantastic role model for the Australian South Sea islander youth in our community. Betty is achieving high grades through her dedication and hard work. She is opening education doors for those who will follow in her footsteps.

The Trainee Award was awarded to Andersyn Landt. She progressed through a Work for the Dole program then a Back to Work program at MADASSIA. She has astounded everyone with her natural ability with administration and the initiative she used to research and navigate to find the correct information needed by MADASSIA to implement a policies and procedures manual for a Job Active Program. She is a great asset to MADASSIA.

The Cultural Award went to Elizabeth Warren, a very well known Mackay local who is always bringing her Australian South Sea islander culture to the forefront of her community work. She has always tried to include the Australian South Sea islander culture and history into programs and events. Her efforts to embed her culture into the Mackay community make Mackay culturally a richer community.

The Community Award was accepted by Erryn Tomarra, who is always going the extra mile, giving guidance and advice where she can to many organisations and individuals. Erryn's role as a CAMMS officer is vital for the Australian South Sea islander community in Mackay and throughout the state.

The Foundation Award recognises Pam Viti as an inspiration for the South Sea islander community. Pam's work in the early days of the MADASSIA organisation and the establishment of the Islander Meeting Hut have left a lasting legacy for her community. Pam was also the coordinator for the Lagoons Naming Project, which she is still recognised for 25 years later. She is a strong and elegant leader.