




Speech By
Stephen Andrew

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Record of Proceedings, 20 September 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Devlin, Mr R

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.12 pm): Bravery is not an absence of fear, but rather an assessment that something else is more important. It is not instinctual for everyone. A situation that may cause one person to leap into action may paralyse another with fear. There is no set measure or circumstance as to what constitutes brave behaviour, but the Governor-General's website states—

Brave acts usually involve a deliberate choice to go from a place of safety to danger or remain in a perilous situation to provide help to another.

The actions of a constituent I am going to talk about today definitely fall into that category.

In the early hours of the morning of 6 June 2018, Robert Devlin was travelling along the Eton Range, on his way to work. A steep narrow range, the Eton Range does not offer any opportunity to pull over. A guardrail separates motorists from a sheer drop. Hurling towards Robert in the dark was a truck whose driver had lost control. It overturned onto its side. Mr Devlin reversed his own car to safety before he leapt into action to assist the truck driver.

Fire began to engulf the rear of the truck as Robert broke and removed the windscreen to remove the driver who was otherwise trapped. Soon after, the cab where the driver had been sitting caught alight, but he had already been moved to safety by his rescuer. Despite the risky terrain, the dangers from other traffic, the spreading fire and the risk of explosion, Robert Devlin acted with selflessness to assist another and save his life.

That was not the first time that Robert Devlin had gone above and beyond. In February 2018, Mr Devlin came across a traffic accident in Carmilla, in the Mirani electorate. He was second on the scene. He helped to remove a woman from a vehicle and assisted her until the paramedics arrived to take over. Clearly Mr Devlin is an upstanding member of the community, willing to forgo his own safety in favour of helping another.

I believe that when we have such extraordinary people in our communities, it is necessary to celebrate those people and their actions. For that reason, I have nominated Robert for a bravery medal through the Office of the Governor-General. It takes a strong character to put their own needs aside and instinctively put another person first. It shows a selfless act of humility and is a true reflection of character.

I wanted to bring Mr Devlin's stoic attitude to the attention of the House today because, as tumultuous as society can be, it is humbling to realise our capacity for what we can do for our fellow man. Sometimes I think we forget that, both in this House and in our outside lives.

It is a pleasure to represent the Mirani electorate, especially when such extraordinary everyday men and women call Mirani home. Four bravery medals, four commendations for brave conduct and two group bravery citations have been awarded within the electorate. While there is not enough time to list all the recipients, I particularly mention award recipients Robert Cowan and Neale Dunphy of Gogango, Scott Smith of Kabra and Janette Star of Stanwell.

(Time expired)