




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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ADJOURNMENT

Sandgate Electorate, International Women's Day

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.16 pm): Rising this evening on International Women's Day, it is a great opportunity to reflect upon the importance of this day and the importance that women play in our community and in our lives.

International Women's Day is about coming together in celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, with this year's theme being press for progress in gender parity. With the World Economic Forum's 2017 global gender gap findings telling us that gender parity is over 200 years away, now more than ever our community needs to press forward with gender parity. I am pleased that I can say that the community in which I live has embraced this day and Queensland Women's Week, with community groups across the Sandgate electorate holding various events in celebration of International Women's Day.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of hosting a couple of tables at the International Women's Day breakfast organised by the Zonta International club of Sandgate alongside a very inspirational speaker and, I might say, a very good and long-term friend of mine, Trish Jackson.

A Thalidomide survivor, Trish has made many amazing achievements, yet she still talks very passionately on a day-to-day basis about the bullying she experiences every day when she steps outside of her own home—an experience which she tells me is amplified by being a woman. At a very young age Trish, and indeed her family and her mother, who is a very powerful inspiration to her, were told that she could not, but she is very proud to say that she is and she does and she can.

Trish has risen to the top in what she does in her life which serves to inspire women across Queensland that, no matter the obstacle, women can and do achieve great things. It was wonderful to have a range of women join me at that event, including the St John Fisher College captain, Maya Rees, and her mother, Charlotte, and a whole range of other women whom it has been great to work with in our community.

While I am on my feet speaking about women who are important in our lives, I want to reflect on four women in my life who have influenced me greatly: my maternal grandmother, Alice Reddy, who instilled in me the values of fairness and equity at a young age; my mother, Janice, who demonstrated pragmatic and practical action; my wife, Megan, who continues to inspire me each and every day; and my daughter, May, who in her first year of high school will begin the path of learning and developing lasting friendships as she grows into a young woman. Together we can make sure that International Women's Day is something that we do not have to talk about into the long term because it is part of every day.