




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

Mansfield Electorate, Australian of the Year Awards

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.09 pm): I rise to acknowledge every Queenslanders who was nominated across the four categories—Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year, Young Australian of the Year and Local Hero—in the 60th Australian of the Year Queensland 2020 awards held on 11 November.

I was particularly proud of Craig Tobin from my electorate of Mansfield who was a finalist in the Local Hero category. Craig is a past state and national swimmer who, in his spare time, devotes his expertise and experience to voluntarily coach Down syndrome and special Olympic swimmers. Craig has volunteered more than 6,000 hours over the past 10 years, coaching these athletes to state, national and international levels of competition, improving the quality of their lives along the way. Craig began running free community based swimming programs for refugee high school children and other minority groups in the area. These days he volunteers his annual leave to coach Down syndrome athletes at national and international swim meets. Craig has established a strong reputation as a swimming coach, extending this teaching to valuable life skills such as self-respect, self-control, teamwork, dedication and commitment—empowering our young people to become active, valued members of their community.

I also want to congratulate teaching colleague Rachel Downie, who was announced Australian of the Year Queensland 2020. After losing a year 9 student to suicide and recognising our young people's reluctance to come forward to report bullying, Rachel developed a self-funded tool called Stymie. More than 300,000 students nationally are using Stymie to report family violence, bullying, cyberbullying, depression, illegal activity, harassment, self-harm and harm to their communities. Schools implementing the Stymie program received more than 40,000 notifications from concerned students, empowering them to use their empathy and conscience to report harm and further a culture of care in their schools.

Every nominee for these awards is a role model for all Queenslanders. Their achievements and contributions go above and beyond what is expected. Their commitment to their ideals and abiding sense of service should be a source of pride and inspiration to us all. Educator Rachel Downie now joins the ranks of previous Queensland recipients including Professor Ian Frazer AC and Elijah Buol OAM. We wish Rachel every success as she represents Queensland and contends the Australian of the Year Australia Day award at the national ceremony in Canberra in January 2020.