




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Queensland Youth Parliament, Women

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.09 pm): On Tuesday night the River Deck was host to a group of fabulous women—the future of our great state—at an event that I hosted with Queensland Youth Parliament. This is an annual event in the Smash the Ceiling series and this year's theme was bHer'd. As the Queensland representative of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians I was delighted to welcome over 60 young women to this nonpartisan event.

It was great that the Hon. Di Farmer, member for Bulimba and Minister for Women, and Ros Bates, member for Mudgeeraba and shadow minister for women, joined us. They shared their stories and provided some insightful advice to the audience. I thank them again for their attendance. It was also fabulous to see so many government and crossbench MPs and ministers drop in to support the current and alumni female members of QYP, school groups and youth advisory panel representatives. I want to give a really big shout-out to the members of the Brisbane Bayside State College and to the BAYS, my youth advisory committee that made the trip to the event.

The One Woman Project, which is the fastest growing youth-led organisation in Australia and provides quality education about global gender equity through schools, universities and events like ours, did a workshop on equity in the workplace and Alexandria Brown, the QYP Youth Governor, also addressed the guests. Creating opportunities to support and encourage young women is, I believe, the responsibility of all MPs. As Minister Farmer stated, 'You can't be what you can't see,' so for those young women to meet and talk to members of parliament in a nonpartisan setting is an invaluable experience for them and us. It is a truly humbling experience to talk to these young women who are enthusiastic and keen to make a difference in their communities, and they are so thrilled to meet MPs.

It is a reminder of the important role that we as MPs have and one that I never take lightly. That is why I really appreciate the support from the members of the parliament who attended the event and I was disappointed that Ros Bates was the only LNP member who attended. However, it is no surprise given that the member for Kawana, in response to my mention of the event in the chamber, asked why I was talking about this inconsequential dinner. How disappointing that he would consider meeting and engaging with young female members of our communities as 'inconsequential' given that we make up 50 per cent of the population, and I remind him that we are not inconsequential.

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians is a nonpartisan committee that aims to increase female participation in Australian politics in all states and territories. We want to achieve equitable outcomes for women in parliament and to be involved in policy and governance issues. We are hosting our third biannual conference in Adelaide in October as part of celebrations of the 125 years of women's suffrage in South Australia. It will be a great event and I invite all women to attend.