



Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

Waterford Electorate, Women

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.03 pm): I rise to celebrate some of the incredible women in my Waterford community. During Queensland Women's Week I had the privilege of hosting the Wonderful Women of Waterford awards to highlight the work of these women. From disability advocates, multicultural leaders and teachers to sporting club volunteers, it was a celebration of the diversity of women leaders in our community.

As there were almost 40 recipients, I do not have time to share all of their incredible stories. We recognised community advocates like Diana Howes, who is mobilising Bethania residents to ensure their voices are heard; inspiring educators like Judy Fewtrell from Mabel Park State High School and Belinda Tregoe from Loganlea State High School; and victims rights champions like my good friend Rachel Simpkin-Bale, who, through her work at the Centre Against Sexual Violence in Logan, campaigns to end sexual violence in our community. I want to thank each and every one of them for their contribution. It is an honour to represent so many remarkable women.

Over the last two weeks we have all grieved with our Muslim community, both from New Zealand and here in Logan. During the Wonderful Women of Waterford event I had the privilege of celebrating some incredible leaders from Logan's Muslim community including Rita Anwari and Fatuma Hussein. Rita invests her time volunteering to support local Afghani women, and Fatuma works at Multilink supporting Oromo-speaking clients and teaching bilingual classes. Both of these incredible women are proud members of the community and have dedicated their working lives to making Logan an even better place to live.

I am proud as the member for Waterford to represent an incredibly diverse multicultural community which includes many members of the Islamic faith. Indeed, in Logan we have more people from different ethnicities than in New York City. That is how wonderfully diverse we are. I take this opportunity to pay my respects to the families and friends of the victims who lost their lives in the horrific terrorist attack in Christchurch. This event has shown us that, now more than ever, it is important that politicians not only call out this behaviour but also do not engage in politics that is based on division and fear. I am so proud that our government does not tolerate politics based on division and that we are proud to celebrate a multicultural Queensland. Soon I will be joining the Premier and many of my colleagues at the Harmony Day parliamentary reception, because here in Waterford and here in Queensland everyone belongs.