




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

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ADJOURNMENT

Steinhardt, Sgt M

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (7.24 pm): Today I pay tribute to a much loved local police officer in my electorate, Sergeant Matt Steinhardt. Earlier this month Sergeant Steinhardt was awarded the Wide Bay Neighbourhood Watch Police Liaison Officer of the Year award in recognition of his work with the Burnett Heads Neighbourhood Watch group. In the words of Neighbourhood Watch's Dawn Lawrence, 'His dedication to the QPS as his job, together with the inspiration, consideration and support he gives to the Neighbourhood Watch Burnett Heads/Port is above reproach.'

Since taking over as officer in charge at Bargara in 2013, Matt has helped to bring together the neighbourhood to administer a very successful community based crime prevention program. Through his work within the community and within the Neighbourhood Watch group Sergeant Steinhardt has helped to build a safer community for everyone and created an awareness of the importance of policing.

After arriving in the Bundaberg area in 2006, Matt Steinhardt worked in general policing and then as a detective in the child protection unit, investigating some of society's more unspeakable crimes. In 2007, then Detective Constable Steinhardt became the adopt-a-cop for Kalkie State School to play a supportive role for students as they embark on their journey to adulthood. Matt spent time talking to the students about cyberbullying and preparing for high school. It is no surprise that in 2013 Matt was recognised for his sterling effort and awarded Adopt-a-Cop of the Year for the North Coast Region for his work with Kalkie State School.

The Burnett Heads/Port group is one of the 425 Neighbourhood Watch groups in Queensland. Sergeant Steinhardt has been involved with that Neighbourhood Watch group for some years. He has attended every meeting possible and if he cannot make it he always arranges a proxy. Matt makes sure that he is available to chat privately with residents as needed. He has actively encouraged the Cuppa with a Cop events. Elderly residents find the sharing of their concerns with a police officer reassuring, especially with one who has the best interests of their community very much at heart.

When nominating Sergeant Matt Steinhardt for the Police Liaison Officer of the Year, the committee noted—

Nothing is too much trouble and he communicates with our Group via emails and responds when we need assistance. This is over and above what anyone has done for the group. Sgt Matthew Steinhardt is a unique Police Officer and he shows this in every aspect of his involvement, be it in the Community or with NHW Burnett Heads/Port.

It is difficult to place a true value on peace of mind, but it is entirely possible to state that Sergeant Steinhardt's approach and involvement in my community makes all the difference. I know I speak on behalf of many in my community when I say thank you to Sergeant Steinhardt for his patience and kindness. My community is a better place for having such a police officer in it. I wish all police officers who are going through the festive season all the best. They have the support of our communities as they do so much in our communities.