



Speech By Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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ADJOURNMENT

New Zealand, Shootings; Clubs Queensland Awards

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.03 pm): I will be speaking about our clubs this evening but before I do can I, along with many other members in this House this week, pass on my condolences to the families who have been devastated by the Christchurch terror attack. We stand united with New Zealand in this awful situation. To all of those New Zealanders and Muslims across Australia who are feeling this very deeply—we are hearing very concerning stories that some Muslim children in Australia are feeling scared to go to school at the moment because of what happened—our thoughts are with you.

Turning to clubs, I acknowledge the contribution by the member for Toowoomba South. I have met with those clubs that he has talked about and have continued a dialogue with them and Clubs Queensland to consider the issues that have been raised. I want to talk about the fact that Clubs Queensland held their awards this week where we celebrated the wonderful work of our community clubs. There are 1,100 licensed venues in this state with 2.4 million members and they employ around 22,000 people. They are important to the economy, but they are significant to our local communities.

Tonight I acknowledge that I was very pleased, on behalf of the Palaszczuk government, to sponsor and present the responsible gambling award to Carina Leagues Club and the responsible service of alcohol award to the Cowboys Leagues Club. I also acknowledge the incredible number of very regional and remote clubs that were represented on Tuesday night. There were quite a few club representatives from Weipa, including Weipa Bowls Club. Many of these regional clubs took out awards on the night, including the Waves Sports Club in Bundaberg which took out the manager of the year award and Caboolture Sports Club which took out the club of the year award. Congratulations to Caboolture Sports Club.

Recently while we were governing from the Sunshine Coast I visited Coolum Surf Club and Nambour RSL to meet with management and staff. I had the great pleasure of having a meal there. Both of these clubs had their chefs up for chef of the year and both of them made it into the top three finalists. Well done to them. It was well deserved. The manager of Nambour RSL, Suzanne Long, was a finalist in the manager of the year category. I congratulate Nambour RSL which has just had its development approval signed off this week by council for a new greenfield site at Sippy Downs. It is great to see a second greenfield site after North Lakes Sports Club, which has been very successful.

I finish by congratulating Don Seccombe, President of Clubs Queensland, on his retirement after 11 years of great service in this role.