



Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 August 2020

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Mount Ommaney Electorate, Small Business Awards**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.40 pm): It was a nervous few weeks in Mount Ommaney recently when we awaited the results of COVID testing following a nearby case of COVID-19. Can I thank the many locals who had the slightest symptoms and did the right thing and got tested in their thousands. Can I also thank the amazing team at 13Health who took phone calls from members of the public and directed them to their nearest testing facility. It is worth noting that this hard work has been going on for months now and, as we have sadly seen in New Zealand, there is no end in sight for our hardworking frontline workers. From the bottom of my heart, can I thank them for their ongoing commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe.

Can I also thank the girls, Sophie and Jess, at Sol Bakery, who followed all medical advice and isolated for a week following brief contact with a confirmed case. The outpouring of support they and their business received from the community was fantastic to see. I know that this support for local businesses will be replicated right across the electorate in droves by Mount Ommaney locals. That is because it is that time of year again. It is time for the Mount Ommaney Small Business Awards. Last year we had over 5,000 votes cast for fantastic local small businesses. These awards, which are co-sponsored by the Centenary Chamber of Commerce, are a great way for small businesses to learn how to promote themselves, gaining new markets and new customers in the process.

It is always great to see the regulars pick up their promotion packs, like Just Poppy's and Robson's Pools. It is also incredible to see first timers see the benefits and get involved in these awards for the very first time. It was fantastic to see Paloma from Florals by Blush design pick up her pack. I want to give her kudos for her innovation. I love getting flowers, but I hate when they die. Paloma has fixed the problem; all her arrangements are dried Australian natives. They are everlasting; they last as long as you like. I bought myself some for Valentine's Day—no shame—and they are still going strong six months later.

I was also visited by Stephen from the Jindalee Jungle children's play centre. He and his wife took over the centre pre COVID. I reckon as first-time entrants they are a dark horse in this year's Small Business Awards race. They are a local Jamboree Heights family and I cannot wait to take my little girl for a visit next year when she is actually big enough. Many previous and new nominees also received the state government adaption grants recently, including Oxley Pilates, where I am trying a class next week with Davina, and Little Big feet in Corinda—

**Ms Boyd:** Go Jess!

**Ms PUGH:** It is a pregnancy class. Little Big feet in Corinda specialise in podiatry shoes for little kids.

Mount Ommaney businesses are working really hard to unite and recover through COVID-19. Recently Milton Dick and I visited Value Added Meats. We sat down with Ken and the team to discuss how the Palaszczuk government's QRIDA loan helped them stay in business and get through the worst of COVID. One of their employees told me they would not be here if it was not for that grant. I am backing small businesses—

*(Time expired)*