



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich Electorate, Zonta Club

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.15 pm): Tonight I want to pay tribute to the Zonta Club of Ipswich—a club that is made up of a remarkable group of professional Ipswich women who work and campaign tirelessly to advance gender equality and female empowerment. Zontians have a reputation as being the hardest working women in Ipswich. Their contribution to improving the lives of women in our local community is highly respected.

Ipswich has a long legacy of strong, hardworking women who have achieved so much for our community through their service. The Zonta Club of Ipswich is made up of such women. The long list of projects and campaigns they have worked on over the past 42 years shows why they are one of the most respected not-for-profit organisations in Ipswich. One of the things they are noted for is their commitment to improving the lives of our most vulnerable women, such as supporting Hannah's House, which provides crisis accommodation for local young women. Last year Zonta generously donated funds to help build a new carport for Hannah's House and donated new furniture to make their facility more comfortable and homelike. Zonta also donates Christmas presents to Hannah's House, helping to bring some joy to the young women staying there who are spending Christmas alone without their loved ones.

They also do incredible work with refugee women at the Ipswich Community Hubs, they work with local high schools to pack birthing kits for mothers and babies in developing countries and they put together care packages for women fleeing domestic violence. Ipswich Zontians also do an amazing job sewing breast cushions for women in the post-operative phase of breast cancer surgery and knitting baby jumpers for the special care nursery at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

Each year Zonta celebrates female leadership in our community by holding their International Women's Day breakfast. The keynote speaker this year was Kimina Anderson, the Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health at West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. Kimina gave a moving and personal tribute to the matriarchs in her family, proudly speaking of their strength and courage, their proud heritage as well as the racism they endured as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living in Queensland.

Notably, however, the Zonta Club of Ipswich is well known for being a local champion for the 16 Days of Activism Against Domestic Violence campaign which kicks off on 25 November every year. Too many women in Ipswich are still experiencing physical or sexual violence at the hands of their partners or former partners, and Zonta's work in supporting women and children impacted by domestic violence is crucial. Their great work was recognised last year when they were inducted into Queensland's inaugural Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Honour Roll.

During the 16 days of activism campaign, you will likely see many local Zontians with their orange cut-out silhouette ladies and many businesses proudly displaying them. These orange ladies were inspired by local Zontian Margaret Llewellyn in 2013, and 16 of them were made up in the metal workshop of the Ipswich Men's Shed. These orange ladies are taken everywhere around town by local Zontians over the 16 days as a powerful reminder that Zonta says no to domestic violence.

Finally, I want to thank each and every one of Zonta's Ipswich members for the work they do to help advance and empower women. Your generous spirit, hard work and passionate commitment to gender equality is much appreciated.