




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Mount Ommaney Small Business Awards

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.26 pm): It has been a rip-roaring start to our Mount Ommaney Small Business Awards, with over 1,000 votes pouring in in the first three hours when voting opened last Friday. We are now sitting at a few thousand votes and climbing rapidly. Voting closes on Monday, 1 November at 5 pm.

Last week my fabulous electorate team hit the phones to call the successful small businesses. One of them in particular took real delight in her opening line: 'My name is Karen and I need to speak to the manager.' Seriously, what a joy to call those local businesses who have pushed through a tough couple of years and share that the local community thinks so highly of them. A big thank you to my team—Rachel, Jess and Karen—for their work on these awards.

On Friday afternoon we hit the streets handing out information to newly nominated local businesses. While I was there, I took the opportunity to have a chat with our local business employees and make sure they have had the opportunity to get the jab. Our local businesses know that vaccines equal freedom and a bumper Christmas shopping season.

I am so excited that this year we have a record 40 brand new first-time nominations for the awards including Can Graze Catering. You should check out their socials—it is gorgeous! We have Blue Groove BMX in Riverhills. They are long-term locals who are all about kids having fun—and the adults too! We have Delightful Moments & Balloons. They are party planners and a theming business. We have the Little Cupcakery, who are making cookies for a baby shower soon enough for one of my electorate officers.

We have Brooke's Blooms, who I must say have beautifully branded pink everything. We have Foundations Tax Accounting. I give a big shout-out to Bruce. He is the owner, but it is a double act with this family, because his daughter Georgia is also nominated in the hospitality customer service category for a different business. Finally, we have Seduire Beauty in Darra. It is not make-up; it is art! I could not do it.

As we head into the silly season, please remember that the people looking after you are doing their best. There is no excuse for poor behaviour towards hospitality and retail staff. As I visited the workplaces of our nominees, the excitement that they had at their positive recognition was so beautiful to see. As a former hospitality professional and proud UWU member, I remember the pride of a job well done. I ask every Queenslanders to remember that our staff are hardworking people. They give up their time with family and friends at Christmas. The staff serving you are hardworking professionals, even the 15-year-olds. If you are rude, I will sic Karen from my office onto you!

Finally, as we all plan to do our Christmas shopping, remember that we have just a few days to get the jab and ensure it is effective before the borders open. Queenslanders, no-one does natural disasters better than us—and COVID has the potential to be the mother of all storms. Let's get it done!