




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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ADJOURNMENT

International Women's Day

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (7.15 pm): This year's theme for International Women's Day is, of course, Choose to Challenge. It celebrates the extraordinary strength, dedication and passion of women everywhere to shape a more equal future in the midst of the pandemic. In my electorate of Algester, many women are making a positive impact in our community every day. They own the present, speak their truth, embrace leadership for change and are passionate about building a better future.

As part of International Women's Week activities I had the privilege of being part of Calamvale Community College's Women in Leadership breakfast and Q and A panel. On the panel I joined the inspirational Dr Elise Stephenson, who has travelled globally and written extensively spreading awareness about female empowerment, and Kaylee Clark, who is the finance manager at Clark's Logan City Bus Service and advocates strongly for young people to enter the transport industry.

The discussions and stories shared were thought provoking and inspiring and provided real-life examples of how women can bring about positive change every day for the future. Following the panel discussion I spoke with school captains Disha Rabari, Erica Ventura, Raha Foroughi and Rabia Farooq, four enthusiastic and driven young women who are passionate about owning their futures. Their questions and their insights were full of hope and aspiration but also reflective of the concerns many women have about the future of women's leadership in this country.

As we bear witness to the events currently playing out in our federal parliament and the pressures that seem to be unique in many ways to women in leadership—certainly the treatment of leaders such as former prime minister Julia Gillard was discussed in this panel during this breakfast—many of the girls and women present questioned whether things had in fact really changed all that much. One question asked on that day has stayed with me in conversation since: 'Who inspired you to put your hand up for leadership?' I thought about my grandmother, a Kaantju woman who endured unspeakable discrimination under successive government policies, and my mother, one of the strongest women I know. I thought about the women of Quandamooka who fought for our native title determination for over 15 years and today continue to fight for Quandamooka people to exercise their native title rights and interests in the face of great challenges, including what appears to be the deliberate actions of the LNP and the Greens to foster division of families to serve their own agendas. It is the right of First Nation people to determine their own futures, and that is spoken through native title determination. It is not the place of politicians to get in the middle of families. As we choose to challenge, the women of Quandamooka will continue to do just that.