




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Watts, Ms B

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (7.12 pm): When we come into this place we bring with us values that have been taught to us. I was taught values by a woman I want to talk about briefly. She taught me the value of respecting minorities and respecting women. She taught me about hard work, resilience and being part of a community. She was born many years ago now—77 to be exact—and her first home was Dr Barnardo's orphanage because her family home had been bombed out in the Second World War. From there they moved into social housing, where she grew up into a young lady. When she got married, her first married home was a caravan. From there, after saving up enough money, she bought her own house in a small community and became an absolute legend in that community, contributing greatly to all of its activities but most particularly its football.

One of the things she did as a young lady in her 20s was foster, I guess one would say, my first sister, Odette, a little West Indian girl. This was right at the start of the 1970s. This was an unusual thing to do at that time, but she was totally committed to looking after that little girl for a period of time, until her family were ready to take her back. She suffered a divorce and was a single mum for a period of time. She put a lot of time, effort and energy into making sure we grew up into boys who knew how to treat women properly and take care of things. She was a big advocate for women's rights and making sure that women would be respected in their community. I carry with me her values with regard to those things.

The values I use to serve my community were given to me by someone who knew what it was to be resilient, someone who had a difficult time with aspects in her life. She went through a divorce when divorce was not popular. When I was at school, there was only one kid in my class whose family were divorced—and that was me. She taught me about making sure you knew how to look after yourself.

As I serve my community, I want my mum to know that her values live on. I want her to know that treating minorities properly, treating women properly, making sure you look after your community, making sure you serve people in your community who are less fortunate than yourself, making sure that social housing is available—these are all things that I hold very dear, because without them my mum would not have been able to make her way in the world, I would not know these values and I would not have been able to make my way in the world. I miss her dearly, but she was a great servant to her community. She lived the life she wanted to live and she was a tough, resilient woman.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Well said, member. Condolences.