




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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ADJOURNMENT

Holmes, Ms E

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.07 pm): Right now, there are many things to celebrate. We have done an incredible job staying safe in this pandemic. Queenslanders are living their lives with so many freedoms. We have been through so much since the virus first started in 2020, and now we have hope for the future. It is important for us all to recognise how far we have come in the past few months alone.

I was recently reminded of this by a constituent of my local community of Redcliffe. Redcliffe resident Eileen Holmes celebrated her 100th birthday in October, and I am sure the House joins me in wishing her a very happy birthday. What a milestone birthday for Eileen. Her daughter Moira reached out to me and shared with me a very special poem that one of Eileen's friends had penned, and I wanted to share it with the House today. It is aptly titled *100 Years*, and this is it—

This year of 2021, we thought, would end the COVID curse,
But sadly, it would seem, that it has only become worse.
Lockdowns in the southern states surely is an order
Here we look and wonder, will Delta leap the N.S border?
The world, no matter where we look, we see a tale of woe,
And we tend to stay at home as there's nowhere much to go.
But this year has a meaning, a most important date
Because Eileen turns 100 and we all want to celebrate.
She really is a role model, we look on her with respect
She is so very spritely, her yoga discipline effect.
She's been a world traveller, she said the reason why
She'd so much rather travel than sit home and wait to die.
She drives her car, plays scrabble and often has a win
With a family in New Zealand she not often sees her kin.
So we will have a party and, of course a birthday cake
Blowing out 100 candles, is that too much to undertake!
So Eileen, please know we wish you all the best
To reach such a milestone, we all are most impressed.

May you stay well for some time yet, enjoy the celebration

Telegram coming from the Queen, it's truly a great occasion!

I want to thank her daughter and her friend who penned that wonderful poem. I know that it is because we have all done such a brilliant job in getting vaccinated and following the health advice that Eileen was able to have her party and birthday cake, too, with her friends, just as she wanted to. On behalf of all of us, I say happy birthday to Eileen and to all of those who celebrated such a special milestone over the last two years, although not everyone got to celebrate it with family and friends. This is all about keeping all of them safe. Happy birthday, Eileen.