



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### War Widows

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.40 am): Last Thursday, 19 October, Queensland set another first—the first state or territory to celebrate War Widows Day, an annual celebration to honour and recognise the incredible work of our war widows and widowers, those dedicated Queenslanders who provide ongoing crucial support and care to those who lost loved ones defending our country who made us all safe and secure. Queensland has the biggest veterans population with 163,000 and we must ensure that their futures are secure as well. That is just what War Widows Queensland do, providing services, care and support for those left behind.

We chose 19 October in recognition of Jessie Vasey who was born on that day. Jessie set up the first War Widows Guild 75 years ago and it grew into what is now War Widows Australia. To mark this occasion, I hosted a lunch in her honour with members of War Widows Queensland. I want to thank my assistant minister. I also want to thank the Minister for Education for attending as well. City landmarks like—

**Mr Bleijie:** I was there, too!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, and I acknowledged you on the day as well. It was a good day. It was lovely to be joined by members of her family on that day as well. City landmarks like the Story Bridge and Parliament House were lit up in blue and white, the War Widows colours, and we have moved to ensure Jessie's legacy will never be forgotten. The government is providing \$10,000 so the State Library can set up an oral history of Jessie's work. It will be posted on the library website and on the Anzac Square and Memorial Galleries and will also be included in the library's school curriculum—a fitting, lasting tribute to Jessie Vasey. War Widows Queensland is among 203 organisations that receive funding from our Anzac Day Trust programs. They deserve and need our support and recognition. It is why we should mark War Widows Day each and every year.