




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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ADJOURNMENT

McConnel Electorate, Awards

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (8.51 pm): I know McConnel is the best electorate in Queensland when nine of the top 10 restaurants are located in my electorate. I congratulate Restaurant Dan Arnold, Agnes, sAme sAme, Donna Chang, Bianca, Gerard's Bistro, Exhibition, SK Steak & Oyster and Montrachet. They are truly magnificent restaurants. If anyone wants to visit a good restaurant, they are the top nine restaurants out of the top 10 in Queensland, all in the electorate of McConnel.

I also congratulate McConnel Small Business Award winners who I announce tonight: best health and fitness, Elite Therapy; best gym, Fortitude Boxing; best cocktail and wine bar, Ivory Tusk; best Italian restaurant, Italian Street Kitchen; best date night venue, MAYA Mexican Restaurant & Bar; best beauty and hairdressing business, Bella Brows; best retail and sales business, Mannys Music; best fashion, Samantha Ogilvie; best young entrepreneur, VALD Newstead; best restaurant, PingPong; best coffee, cafe and breakfast, Joedy's Cafe; and best brew house, Newstead Brewery. These are excellent small businesses. These are the people's choice—the constituents of McConnel. I congratulate each and every one of them on winning the McConnel Small Business Awards.

I am not finished yet. In October 2022 *Time Out* magazine published a list of the 51 coolest neighbourhoods in the world. Fortitude Valley came in at No. 47, one of only three Australian suburbs to make the list. The article states—

The burgeoning creative hotspot of Fortitude Valley—

which is where I live, I might add—

is located about a mile and a half from Brisbane's central business district. Most of the action in this thriving, cool-kid neighbourhood centres around bustling James Street: a green, shaded oasis in a city that bakes in summer, with trees lining the pavement and vines climbing up the walls of boutique stores and the popular Calile Hotel. Of course you'll find cafés, bars and chic retailers here, but there's a reason the Valley is dubbed 'the suburb that never sleeps'. At night it transforms into a live-music hub, with young party-seekers descending upon the excellent range of clubs, bars and concert halls. If you want to party, this is one of the best places in Australia.

I rest my case: McConnel is the best electorate in Queensland. I congratulate my small business winners, Fortitude Valley and, of course, the top nine restaurants out of the top 10.