




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Braille House

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.52 pm): The speech I am about to give is a Twin Vision printed speech produced by one of our many outstanding Braille House transcribers at Annerley. Braille tactile bumps on paper, money and metal are often overlooked and blend into the background for sighted people. These bumps make up tactile literacy, the basis of an empowered, independent life for Queenslanders with low to no vision. In that spirit I will table this speech in braille.

Tabled paper: Adjournment speech, dated 28 October 2022, by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the member for Miller, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding Braille House (original speech also prepared in braille) [1786](#).

In March 1897 seven women, including Lady Lamington, the wife of the then Queensland governor, met and formed the Queensland Braille Writing Association with a view to the production of braille based reading materials and the tutoring services necessary to instruct people in their use. In 1954 the association moved into a property in Ipswich Road, Annerley, which became Braille House, an institution in my electorate of Miller staffed by wonderful people who have dedicated their lives to sharing the wonders of reading with children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the many wonderful volunteers and leaders at Braille House, both past and present, for all they have done over many generations, including Richard Barker, general manager of Braille House, and volunteer Margo who join us in the gallery today. Welcome.

A Braille House library was established in 1899 with just 54 books. That library has now grown to over 16,000 volumes across 7,000 titles. Moving with the changing times and technology, the Braille House library now also supports digitally refreshable braille displays. Braille House also produces a range of braille-based materials, including business cards, certificates and menus, which I encourage people to use. At the height of the COVID pandemic, Braille House continued to innovate by producing braille-based COVID check-in signs.

On 9 September this year I was privileged to join Braille House as they hosted their annual braille literacy challenge. More than 50 children from all over Queensland came together to complete and display their braille skills. This year also saw Braille House host the 101st Dickinson Memorial Literary Competition. This year's theme was based on time and drew a record number of entrants across the short story, poetry, adults, senior student and junior student categories. This year marks 125 years since the association was founded. This commendable record stretches from Queensland colonial times to the high-tech environment in which we now live. This side of this House, and I am sure many members, strongly supports the not-for-profit sector and recognises and values the efforts of such organisations, their significant histories, their employees and volunteers who continue to turn up and provide invaluable support and services to visually impaired people here in Queensland. Thank you to them.