



Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**

**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2022

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**National Week of Deaf People**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I call the member for Macalister. The House will note that the member is signing the first part of her speech with the permission of the Speaker. I ask that the contribution be heard in silence.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.10 pm):

*The member signed using Auslan, Australian sign language.*

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Last month was the National Week of Deaf People in Australia. We all want Queensland to be an inclusive state. We all want the deaf community to be included. The silence you heard in this chamber was strange for this place, but for deaf people this is their world.

Learning Auslan is a perfect way to include others. You can learn your name or something as simple as hello or thank you. Sign Language in Education Day was on 19 September. In my electorate of Macalister, Mount Warren Park State School teaches Auslan as their second language as part of their curriculum. I have watched maths and science taught in Auslan. True inclusion, believe me, is a quiet classroom. I would like to congratulate the students and staff at Mount Warren Park State School. I challenge all members here today to try to learn their name in Auslan and truly include others. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I remind members of the House that applause even in sign language is a breach of the standing orders. We are all going to have to learn to interject in sign language. You need to know the language properly before you do that! I call the member for Kawana.

**Mr Bleijie:** How would I use a prop, Mr Deputy Speaker?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You wouldn't.