




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (12.46 pm): This month is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I obviously generally would not be in parliament wearing the colour pink ordinarily, but for October I can and I will. I would like to thank the member for Cooper for bringing the waistcoat back into parliament. Very well done! I do not think it is a stretch to suggest that there would be few people in this House who have not been touched by the scourge of breast cancer, either themselves or someone that they know and love. I want to acknowledge the contribution of the member for Toohey earlier this week in his speech.

One in eight women will develop breast cancer at some point in their life, but there is more than one gender in this world: there is also a chance that one in 1,000 men will develop or be diagnosed with breast cancer as well. Approximately 80 per cent of women in Australia diagnosed with breast cancer are over the age of 50, but I want to take a moment to reflect on the younger cohort—that is, those who are under 40. They make up around about five per cent of all women diagnosed and there are a number of impacts that may be unique to this cohort of patients. Firstly, there is the impact of a diagnosis during pregnancy which affects treatment options. Treatment options will also have impacts on future pregnancies, particularly treatments that may hasten menopause.

I want to acknowledge the work of the charity So Brave for the work it does with young women who are diagnosed with breast cancer. So Brave operates networks for young women who are diagnosed and raises funds to educate young women to be breast cancer aware and to support research for better understanding and support for young women with breast cancer. Since Breast Cancer Awareness Month last year, the organisation has received support from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and I was pleased to join the women from the Queensland Police Service South Eastern Region this time last year to raise over \$10,000 for the charity.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge survivors of breast cancer, some in my family and many others with whom I have worked. This is the time when the sisters in blue really do come to the fore. We wrap our arms around each other and our colleagues and when we lose a colleague this is an organisation that knows how to grieve. In the South Eastern Region we farewelled some of our beloved administration officers in the recent Police Memorial Day, and to our good friend Charmaine, an absolute delight of a human and the most dedicated police officer, we miss you.