




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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ADJOURNMENT

SES Week

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.29 pm): In September this year I had the pleasure of representing the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Mark Ryan, at the launch of SES Week for the Brisbane region. Across the Brisbane region, there are approximately 1,004 volunteers who between July 2021 and July 2022 performed over 132,978 hours of service. We know the SES volunteers have been out in full force due to this year's prolonged wet season, which greatly impacted on the residents of Rocklea in my electorate.

When nature is at its worst, the SES is at its best. The extreme conditions Queenslanders faced, particularly in South-East Queensland, highlights the importance of our emergency services. It takes a special kind of person to be an SES volunteer, so I was disturbed to read that across all regions teens were the least represented group amongst volunteers and that has not been increasing. I hope they will become more eager to volunteer as they become more aware of the benefits of volunteering. We will need their skills and capacity as volunteers into the future.

The event I attended in September, on behalf of the minister, was to celebrate the hard work and outstanding efforts of the SES volunteers in the Brisbane region. The SES Meritorious Service Award is presented to volunteer members of the SES in recognition of their dedicated service. On the night there were a number of meritorious service medals presented to volunteer members, recognising their service. The number of meritorious service medals presented were: 14 medals for 10 years of service; one first clasp to the medal for 15 years of service; four second clasp to the medal for 20 years of service; and one sixth clasp to the medal for an incredible 40 years of dedicated service.

The Regional SES Member of the Year Award was also presented for distinguished service to the SES. This award was presented to Mitchell Brushe of the Cleveland SES Group. The Regional SES Group of the Year Award was very close, with the Western SES Group being this year's recipient of the award. The Moggill SES Group received a highly commended award in the same Regional SES Group of the Year category. The Regional SES Operational Response of the Year Award recognises effective and efficient operations during a major disaster event or emergency incident that occurred during the previous year. This year, three units received the award in recognition of their dedicated service to the Brisbane region community during the February 2022 severe weather and flood event. Those units were Brisbane City SES, Moreton Bay and Redland City.