



Speech By  
**Amanda Camm**


**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 February 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Domestic and Family Violence; Forensic and Scientific Services; Mackay Regional Citizen of the Year**

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (7.24 pm): On 9 February it was 10 years since 23-year-old Shandee Blackburn walked from her place of work and was tragically murdered. To Vicki, her mother, Shannah, her sister, and all of her family and friends and supporters, we acknowledge your diligence, your tenacity, your courage and your ongoing commitment to justice. I had the absolute privilege to spend time with them recently at the 10-year commemoration where we acknowledged the hard work and effort by people like Dr Kirsty Wright, who brought to light the failings of Queensland's forensics lab; Hedley Thomas, the Walkley Award winning journalist who, through his podcast *Shandee's Story*, told not only Shandee's story but also the story of many victims of crime across this state; community group Justice for Shandee, which came together at Harrup Park along with the many community leaders who spoke, including the Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli, Mayor Williamson and me. On sunset we all released bubbles into the air as *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* played. Shandee's death has not been in vain, for that justice that we are yet to see for her will certainly be seen for many victims of crime across our state.

It is an absolute privilege and pleasure to congratulate Sergeant Nigel Dalton, who became Mackay Regional Citizen of the Year. He has big shoes to fill after Frank Cowell, who commenced International Men's Day in my community. As a local constituent, he stood down from the fabulous role he has played over the 12 months. Nigel is a coordinator and a volunteer. He is passionate about the community work he does in our community. He is also one of my local constituents in the Northern Beaches of Mackay. From online safety programs to visiting over 8,000 school students a year as the coordinator for the Crime Prevention Unit, Safety Circus, facilitating Shed Happens along with many community members, as well as street chaplaincy, Nigel is a true champion of our community. He is committed to young people and I certainly know he connects with them. Recently we hosted marathon swimmer Chloe McCardel to share her message not only of swimming the English Channel a record-breaking 44 times but also as a victim of domestic violence. She has toured my electorate of Whitsunday and Mackay as well as that of my colleague in Burdekin and she has also travelled to schools in the Bowen Basin.

My colleague and I certainly congratulate Nigel on his ongoing contribution to our community. We are proud that he chose to move with his family to Australia in 2003 to now be a local Mackay person.