




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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ADJOURNMENT

Joyce Newton OAM Memorial Bursary

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.09 pm): Many members here will have heard me speak before of my dear friend Joyce Newton OAM and her many legacies: her contributions to politics, the dairy industry, health and education in the Sunshine Coast hinterland and so much more. Joyce was an absolute powerhouse of a woman and I miss her dearly. On her passing in 2018 and with the blessing and support of her family, I established the Joyce Newton OAM Memorial Bursary for Glass House year 11 and 12 students to honour her incredible life. To apply for the bursary, students shared their school achievements, the field of study they wished to pursue after school and how a bursary would aid their educational goals and, importantly, outlined how Joyce contributed to our community.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of the applicants for this year's bursary: Charlie Bidgood from Glass House Christian College; Nathaniel Audley and Kelly Schofield from Maleny State High School; Nina Taylor from St Columban's College; and Nikita Emhofer from Beerwah State High School. Your applications and interviews were all exceptional and selecting a winner was no easy task. The students highlighted some of Joyce's achievements, including her time teaching mathematics and science and being the driving force behind the construction of an indoor activity centre at Maleny State High School. Nina from St Columban's College put it pretty succinctly: 'What did Joyce Newton do? Well, what did she not do?'

After much deliberation with Joyce's daughter Jen, who has joined us here tonight, we decided to award the 2023 bursary to Nikita Emhofer, who is also in the gallery here this evening. The competition was so fierce that we have recognised two runners-up in Nina and Kelly. In her application Nikita discussed how she juggles her schooling with assisting a small business, learning the ropes of entrepreneurship and gaining practical skills. Upon graduation, Nikita has ambitions to study medicine and eventually to become a paediatric doctor. Her motivation stems from wanting to aid children who often fall through the cracks—an experience she witnessed with her own brother, who has multiple disabilities. Nikita aptly stated in her application: 'The idea of standing up for kids whom others deem too challenging is so riveting to me.' This is a young woman who shares the spirit of Joyce Newton.

Nikita has earned a \$1,000 gift voucher for Concept IT in Maleny along with dinner here in parliament tonight. To Nikita and her parents, Michael and Linda: it is an honour to have you join us. To quote Nikita once more: 'Joyce was truly a woman of substance and admirable character.' Nikita, the same can already be said of you. Congratulations once again.