



Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Ipswich Girl Guides, Anniversary

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (7.09 pm): Last month I was honoured to join the first Ipswich Girl Guides in celebrating their 100th anniversary. What an incredible milestone and a testament to the commitment of generations of dedicated Girl Guides, Girl Guides volunteers, leaders and supporters in Ipswich. Over the past 100 years, the lives of girls have dramatically changed, but one thing that has stayed the same is the Girl Guides' mission of providing a safe space for girls to be themselves and to grow into exceptional young women who can take on the world. In 1923, women were already starting to see some changes that allowed them a little bit more freedom, rights and autonomy, but there was still a long way to go. The gains we have made over the past 100 years have been made in part because of organisations like Girl Guides. They have mentored scores of girls, empowering them to do anything that boys and men can do and then some.

The 100th celebration welcomed the Girl Guides Queensland State Commissioner, Kathryn Pearson, and was well attended by Ipswich Girl Guides volunteers and supporters both past and present. It was a remarkable trip down memory lane with really interesting displays of memorabilia, uniforms, trophies and other mementos documenting the last century of Guiding in Ipswich. It was such a great joy to meet former Ipswich Girl Guides such as Dell Pears, a remarkable 93-year-old woman who no doubt has many fond memories of her days spent with the Ipswich Girl Guides. I also want to acknowledge Nola Fairhurst, Ipswich's first Queen's Guide recipient and former Brownie, Guide, Ranger, Guide Leader and District Manager. Nola was the recipient of the Ipswich Guides' Queen's Guide Shield at the anniversary celebrations. What an incredibly well deserved honour it is for Nola's lifelong commitment to the Ipswich Girl Guides. Congratulations and thank you for your work, Nola. It was also a pleasure to meet current Girl Guides who are carrying on the Guiding tradition in Ipswich.

Being a Girl Guide is not only about learning patrol skills, camping and outdoor adventures but also the Girl Guides impart valuable skills in leadership, communication and problem-solving. The Girl Guides have also embraced new technology and they have expanded their programs to stay innovative and remain relevant in a changing world. I want to acknowledge the work of our great leaders locally in Ipswich. I want to make particular mention of District Manager Dee Scheltinga. The Guides continue to be such terrific role models for our young women and girls, and their mentorship and guidance has been instrumental in empowering local girls to become confident young women who will be a force for positive change in the community.

At the 100th anniversary celebrations, I learned that over the past century Ipswich Girl Guides volunteers dedicated 16,000 hours to supporting Guides, and that does not include all the additional hours of volunteering. This generosity of time and effort is only made possible by leaders and volunteers who are passionate about making a difference in girls' lives through Guiding. Congratulations again to our local Ipswich Girl Guides for reaching this incredibly impressive milestone and for putting on a really wonderful day of celebration.