




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Queensland Volunteering Awards; National Community Languages Schools Day

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.03 pm): It was an absolute pleasure to represent the Premier last week at the Queensland Volunteering Awards. I congratulate every single Queenslander who was nominated for one of these awards. I definitely want to congratulate all of the finalists at the awards last Monday, and I really want to congratulate one of the local Mount Ommaney residents whom I specifically nominated: Mr Brian Tovey. Mr Brian Tovey fits more into the daylight hours than I think any member of this House could possibly hope to aspire to. In addition to looking after the Corinda P&C garden once a week, he also helps the school with tennis court hire. He is also the JP on call for the midnight police phone calls. That is not a job that a lot of people want to sign up for. He volunteers weekly at the Sherwood Meals on Wheels and he also ran the Corinda Oxley Neighbourhood Watch. That is just a taste of the work he does in our community, so it is no wonder that out of hundreds of nominees he was one of three finalists. I could not be prouder of Brian and his achievement in that space.

It was such a pleasure to represent the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister Linard, a few weeks ago at the Mother Languages and Cultures National Community Languages Schools Day. It was hosted by Ethnic Schools Association Queensland and the Brisbane Bangla School. Like many members of parliament, I am privileged to have a mother tongue language school in my electorate—a Vietnamese school which has been run out of Darra State School for about 30 years now—and I feel incredibly proud. It is important for the one-in-two Queenslanders who have a parent who was born overseas, or who were born overseas themselves, to continue to have that strong and close relationship with their mother tongue language. In many cases, it is the only way they can communicate with older relatives.

While I am on my feet, it would be remiss of me not to mention what a pleasure it was to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil new year with many of my parliamentary colleagues including the members for Ipswich West, Jordan and Oxley as well as Greg Adermann, who is the councillor for the Pullenvale ward. We had a lovely time and it was great to see so many Mount Ommaney locals who had come all the way out to Chuwar to celebrate that occasion. I received a blessing. I am going to live to be 100 now, which is exciting. I want to thank the local residents who played such an important role in putting that event together—Ruan, the Jays and the fabulous organising committee.