



Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Mount Ommaney Electorate, Rotary Changeover**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.59 pm): Recently we had the Rotary changeover season, and let me tell members that it has been a busy time—as everyone has been saying—in my community because I have not one, not two, not three, but four fabulous Rotary clubs in my community. They have recently been the beneficiaries of some government largess, which I will get to shortly.

At the Jindalee changeover, president Irene handed over to Cameron Webb. She did a fantastic speech, despite the recent bereavement in her family with the sad loss of her sister just a few days before. Her speech was heartfelt and hysterical, as only she can be. In the speeches at the Jindalee changeover polio eradication was a key theme. I am sure members of this House are familiar with this, but it is important to note that it was Rotary that started the drive to eradicate polio all over the world—a cause that has now been taken up by our hardworking health professionals. It is amazing to think that today they have nearly achieved that. It is incredible to think that a group of community-minded volunteers from around the world have almost eradicated this scourge. I place on the record my personal thanks for their work in this place.

**Mr Madden:** Hear, hear!

**Ms PUGH:** I will take that interjection from my colleague the member for Ipswich West.

The Centenary Rotary changeover was a bittersweet night, as just hours earlier valued club member Glen Palmer had passed away at Canossa. I was privileged to attend her funeral the following week and learned about her incredible life. She taught in remote communities all over the world and later worked as an academic at Griffith University in the education space. She joined Rotary to gain support for her wonderful kindy programs in Fiji. Her passion and drive for her work as an early childhood educator was evident. Glen was one of a kind. Her name was Glen; it was not Glenys or anything else. She lived life on her own terms with her loving husband, Bob.

A beautiful Sunday morning breakfast was a perfect way to celebrate the Walter Taylor changeover. They have recently received a Community Gambling Benefit Fund grant. It was there I met the delightful Cody from Borderline and his brilliant team.

**Mr Lister:** Hear, hear!

**Ms PUGH:** I take that interjection. They run camps in the Southern Downs region to support young people, many of whom have mental health challenges. It is great to see that bipartisan support.

**Mr Lister:** I sponsor them.

**Ms PUGH:** Fantastic. The camp aims to provide, as the member for Southern Downs is so enthusiastically saying, a positive experience to the attendees as well as equipping them with the resilience and coping strategies to navigate the challenges of modern life. He did the welcome and spoke at the Centenary changeover. That is a fantastic organisation.

Finally, the Sumner Park Rotary celebrated a milestone—their 30th birthday—and promoted their Rotary reading assistance program. It operates in Charleville, Roma, St George and Mitchell. Congratulations, Rotary.