



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Nundah Women of the Year Awards

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.27 pm): I am very proud to share with the House today the achievements of some truly impressive locals across my electorate of Nudgee. Recently Setty Fardousian, the marketing manager of our local Nundah Village Shopping Centre, contacted my office with an idea I could not help but get behind. Setty is constantly thinking of ways to support and celebrate our local community, and we often work together on shared initiatives to support local businesses and vulnerable people in the community. We are very lucky to have her. Setty's latest initiative was to launch the Nundah Women of the Year Awards for International Women's Day earlier this month. I had the great pleasure of nominating a number of outstanding women across our community for recognition of the invaluable work they do. I know that every one of them would have been a worthy winner, and I also know that every one of them would have shied away from the recognition.

The first of these was Olive Volavola, the coordinator of Compassion 4 Community, an organisation that works hard every day with a small team of volunteers to cook and serve three-course meals to those in need—not just those going hungry but also those who may need a place to connect with others, to feel safe, to feel part of a community and have a sense of belonging. That is what Olive and her team provide to our community, and I thank them deeply for it. It is also why Olive was rightly recognised as the winner of this year's Nundah Woman of the Year. Well done to Olive and all of her lovely team.

I also nominated runner-up Robin Rizzo, who runs the Northside Community Sewing Group—a learn-to-sew volunteer group that donates its finished products to the needy in our community. When Robin and this exceptional group of women found out that a local housing provider needed more warm blankets, they responded by sewing 20 new blankets for those living in DV crisis housing. This is just one example of their compassion and generosity to those most in need and I thank them sincerely for all they do for our community locally and vulnerable Queenslanders.

Finally, Patricia McArthur was another runner-up for the Nundah Woman of the Year Award and equally deserving of this recognition for her work for community. Trish is a longstanding volunteer of the local Neighbourhood Centre and DV service provider Northside Connect. For over 10 years Trish has volunteered her time to help Northside Connect deliver its vital services to our community, helping out at reception, serving on its board and anything else that might support it in its work. It is truly my privilege to shine a well-deserved light on these fantastic women and their contributions. There are so many local people doing extraordinary things and the electorate of Nudgee, my local community, is the better for their heart, contribution and service.