




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Labour Day

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.21 pm): This coming Monday is the Queensland Labour Day holiday. It has been a long-held Ipswich tradition to hold a Labour Day march on the Saturday beforehand. I want to take this opportunity to recognise and acknowledge the work of the incredible QCU Labour Day Committee in Ipswich that makes this important day on the Ipswich calendar such a success each and every year. As you can imagine, a lot of work goes into organising an event like that. In particular, I want to acknowledge Amy Williams who leaves no stone unturned in making sure she carries on the great tradition of those who came before her in the role—people such as Brian Hall, who organised the event for decades and who sadly passed away a few years ago. I also want to acknowledge our local Police Service. We really value their cooperation in supporting the march and keeping us safe on the day.

I acknowledge the labour movement: all of the unions that represent working people across the nation; the unions that negotiate for better wages and conditions for their members; the unions that protect them against unfair treatment and provide support through a wide range of services, such as legal advice and workers' compensation, as well as arranging a huge variety of free benefits and discounts for union members. It was our union movement that fought hard for industrial manslaughter laws to hold companies to account when their workers lost their lives on the job. It was unions that advocated for banning the use of engineered stone to protect workers from silicosis.

Unions have fought long and hard to see wage theft become a crime and to fight for 'same job, same pay' rights for labour hire workers. Unions like the TWU have lobbied hard for transport gig economy workers to get the same rights and protections enjoyed by most other employees. Thanks to union-led campaigning, Queensland was the first state to pass into law 10 days of paid family and domestic violence leave and natural disaster leave. Their campaigning has led to portable long service leave for community service workers.

The SDA campaigned hard for Christmas Eve to become a public holiday from 6 pm, and that was passed into law in Queensland in 2019. The SDA has also done great work protecting some of our youngest, lowest paid and most vulnerable workers employed in retail and hospitality, and I want to mention their successful No One Deserves A Serve campaign that is helping call out abuse and violence against those workers.

All of this is in stark contrast to the LNP, who could not wait to show their disdain for the labour movement by changing the date of Labour Day in Queensland to October, despite the fact that the celebration of Labour Day on the first Monday in May has a particular cultural and historical significance for Queenslanders. It has been in place for over 100 years.

I also want to mention the work of the unions in advocating for cost-of-living relief, as we have seen in today's fantastic announcement. The unions were behind that as well. I want to wish every member of this House a happy Labour Day. We would be a very different place without our union movement.