



Speech By  
**Kim Richards**


**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS**

**National Volunteers Week**

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.34 pm): What an absolute delight it is to follow on from the member for Warrego because I was going to talk about how amazing all of the volunteers are in the Redlands. That was a disgraceful contribution because there is not a member in this chamber who does not highly value the contributions of our amazing volunteers here in Queensland. Honestly, member for Warrego! Trying to politicise the hard work of our volunteers is absolutely disgraceful. It is always politics over people in this chamber—always.

Our volunteers are incredibly amazing, particularly in the Redlands. I firstly wanted to touch on the fact that Wednesday was Wear Orange Wednesday in honour of our amazing SES units. In the Redlands, we have one of the most highly awarded units. We have some absolutely amazing volunteers. Alex Johnson, Alexandra Bains, Sidrah Harcourt, Tim Willis and Anne-Marie Bennett are some of the highly awarded SES volunteers we have out in the Redlands. I give an absolutely huge shout-out to them for everything they do. I know how hard they work in the Redlands and I know how hard they have worked to support other areas in Queensland in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Jasper and all of the disasters that have occurred.

When we talk about volunteers, there is such a diverse range. The theme for this year is 'Something for Everyone'. There is absolutely something for everyone to contribute towards when it comes to volunteers.

Our rural firefighters are absolutely incredible. In the Redlands we have five brigades, our VMR, Coast Guard, our wildlife rescuers, Coastcare, Bushcare, Meals on Wheels, and all of our P&Cs that work so hard in our community to create stronger school communities. We have Night Ninjas, who do an absolutely fantastic job in supporting homeless in our community. Our Redlands branch of the Queensland Cancer Council held their Biggest Morning Tea, raising over \$10,000. They do an absolutely fantastic job. The Donald Simpson Centre helps our seniors, and I am really proud that the Miles Labor government is supporting them with \$500,000 to assist them to deliver all that great support for our seniors community. We have our residents' associations, our Chambers of Commerce, our Men's Sheds, Zonta, Soroptimist, the Red Rose Foundation, Rotary, Lions, CWA, Surf Life Saving Queensland and our RSLs. When you think about the full gamut of where people can volunteer, there is absolutely something for everyone.

I know every member in this chamber deeply values the contribution volunteers make to our communities every single day of the week. To every volunteer, right the way across Queensland, on behalf of all members of this chamber—all members of this chamber—I say happy National Volunteers Week. Thank you for everything you contribute to our community.