




Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

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ADJOURNMENT

Liberal National Party, Women; Faith-Based Schools

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.06 pm): LNP women are leading the way in South-East Brisbane with the recent preselection of Susanna Damianopoulos for the seat of Springwood and Pinky Singh for Mansfield, joining Amanda Stoker for Oodgeroo and Rebecca Young for the Redlands. They are coming. In 2021, the LNP leader, David Crisafulli, set a target of 50 per cent of new candidates in winnable seats—

Government members interjected.

Dr ROBINSON: I am getting a lot of encouragement from those on the opposite side for our women coming through. For the October election, we set a target of 50 per cent of new candidates in winnable seats to be women. As of last week, 10 of 14 key seats had preselected women, passing the 50 per target and without forcing quotas. Therefore, it is possible that four more LNP female members of parliament from South-East Brisbane alone will enter parliament following the October state election. I ask the residents of those electorates to get behind them.

Susanna Damianopoulos is a long-term local of the Springwood electorate who is putting her hand up to fight for the people of Springwood. As an accountant and a former small business owner, Susanna knows how much the skyrocketing cost of living is hurting the Springwood community under this tired state Labor government. Every day she hears from residents about how rising crime is making people feel unsafe. It is one of the reasons Susanna is putting herself forward. She wants a better future for her community and for her family. Springwood deserves strong representation in parliament and that is what Susanna brings as the LNP candidate.

Pinky Singh says it was an honour to be announced as the LNP candidate for Mansfield and she has hit the ground running. Through her community work she has been hearing from locals about how the cost of living is only getting worse with electricity bills and insurance premiums soaring. She has seen how the escalating youth crime, deteriorating health services and rising rents are also affecting residents in Mansfield.

On a different matter, independent schools, Catholic schools and other faith-based schools—Muslim and Jewish—are worried. They are worried about Labor's plans to interfere with whom they employ to teach in their schools. Faith-based schools have always employed teachers with their religious values. Large numbers of Queenslanders choose to send their children to those schools for those very reasons and values. An alliance of the nation's most senior spiritual leaders warned Labor last year not to prevent schools from preferencing the employment of teachers who share their beliefs and spiritual outlook. I call on the Attorney-General to drop this unnecessary plan.

(Time expired)