




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

Queensland Police Service, North Brisbane District Awards Ceremony

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (6.44 pm): Last Friday I was honoured to be asked to attend the Queensland Police Service North Brisbane District awards ceremony held at the Kedron-Wavell Services Club. Attending the service to present the awards, under the guidance of the master of ceremonies, Inspector Michelle Pickett, were Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Kelly, Assistant Commissioner Ben Marcus and Chief Superintendent David Cuskelly. There were 111 officers honoured for their dedicated service at the ceremony. Might I say that there are more than 1,300 officers in the North Brisbane District.

Officers received national medals and clasps, national police service medals, the Queensland Police Service Medal and clasps, and emergency response medals. Amongst the recipients were two officers who also received the first of the emergency response medals allocated for service during COVID. Certificates of appointment were awarded, as were 17 district officer certificates. Recipients played many roles in many situations saving lives and protecting the community. Four officers were recognised for their work in Operation Romeo Mugwort, which resulted in 39 offenders being prosecuted for 201 drug offences on the north side. Others were involved in breaking open drug-trafficking networks, responding and saving lives through advanced first responder training and tactical first aid at severe motor vehicle incidents, as well as search and rescue and, again, tactical first aid for vulnerable people at risk of self-harm. Through these actions people are alive today who would otherwise be dead.

Superintendent Steve Holahan received a Certificate of Service and Meritorious Service Medal acknowledging his 41 years of continuous service in both operational and specialist roles. Steve started his distinguished policing career as a first-year constable on 9 May 1983 and retires after 41 years service on 31 May this year. He tells me he has no plans. Steve has served in uniform in the CIB as a detective and was commissioned in 2004. Much was made at the ceremony of Steve's character, leadership and mentoring of many younger officers over his time in the service. I echo the thoughts of all in the service and say: good luck in your retirement, Steve.

Two exemplary conduct medals were awarded. Those medals recognise members of the QPS who have demonstrated exemplary conduct in a specific role of duty. Sergeant Scott Adams received this prestigious recognition for 30 years of service with the Disaster Victim Identification Squad. In his role he took part in many operations that I am sure many of us would struggle with, including identification of 15 victims of the Childers backpackers hostel fire. Sergeant Mark Farnill also received the Exemplary Conduct Medal for 40 years service. On top of this were a cohort of new first-year constables about to head off to their assigned duties, four of whom are making their way to the Hendra station under the watchful eye of officer in charge Senior Sergeant Russ Halley.

Our police do a tough job in an increasingly fractious society. I want to thank them for their ongoing dedication and commitment to our community safety. The awards last Friday were a fitting recognition of those officers' dedication and service.