




Speech By
Hon. Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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ADJOURNMENT

ICPA Queensland State Conference

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.09 pm): I rise to speak on two important gatherings that took place that reflect on the heart of our rural and regional communities. The Isolated Children's Parents' Association State Conference was recently held in St George and the P&Cs Qld State Conference on the Gold Coast. Members of this House know just how crucial the ICPA are for rural and regional parents. The ICPA conference brought together Queenslanders from all corners of the state, and I was joined by the Assistant Minister for Western Queensland and member for Gregory, Sean Dillon, who has children who are currently on distance education, as well as the Assistant Minister for South West Queensland, Trevor Watts. I also want to commend Wendy Henning, the Chair of the ICPA. She did an absolutely fantastic job at chairing and keeping that conference going, as did Louise Martin, the federal president of the ICPA. The local ICPA branches absolutely excelled and did a fantastic job.

The ICPA are a great advocacy group, and I have known of their great work for a long time. It was fantastic to have them in my electorate on the banks of the Balonne in beautiful St George. Last year, I joined them for their state conference in Townsville, so it was really good to catch up with a lot of the ladies I had met previously in Townsville in my electorate at St George. They chose very well for a venue. The St George State High School goes above and beyond for their students. I would like to give a very special shout-out to the whole community of St George, but particularly the principal, Tom McKenna, a young principal who has come out to St George and he is really kicking some goals when it comes to agriculture studies in their school. The work they do there, including the work with ag is nothing short of special. I know assistant ministers Dillon and Watts toured the school and also the Agricultural School of Excellence. From what I have heard, it was a great insight into what they do for agriculture and young people there at the school. If there is ever a thought of an agricultural boarding school, I would have to say St George should be right at the front of the queue for that.

It brings me to the next volunteer event that I would like to showcase. Like the ICPA, the P&Cs are crucial for Queensland schools, and recently I had the honour of representing the Minister for Education and the Arts at the annual state conference. I am pleased to announce it was an incredible success. I had the great pleasure of engaging with the P&C volunteers. I would especially like to give a shout-out to the P&C that showed tremendous commitment to come all the way from Yorke Island, right up there in the Torres Strait, to the Gold Coast. It takes a day to get there and another one to get home, so good on those P&C members from Yorke Island. It is testament to the great work that all Queensland P&Cs do. They are tremendous volunteers and what they do for our schools is absolutely commendable. I want to thank everyone involved in the conference, including the CEO of P&Cs Qld, Scott Wiseman. Our discussions on the work of volunteers will continue.

(Time expired)