



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Zmuda, Ms C; Clark, Mr B; Bribie Island Seniors Expo; Community Events

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.26 pm): I begin by acknowledging the extraordinary courage of the Zmuda family. On 3 February our community marked one year since we lost Charlize, a bright light, a dedicated surf lifesaver and a young woman whose kindness and courage touched so many. As the sun set over Woorim Beach, family, friends and community members stood together, placing frangipanis—Charlize's favourite flower—into the ocean she loved so deeply. It was a powerful and heartfelt moment of remembrance. I want to thank Renee, Steve and Steph for their grace and strength. In the face of unimaginable loss, they continue to acknowledge Charlize's legacy of selflessness, service and love for others. Our community stands with them not just on the anniversary but always.

Last week I had the privilege of hosting a morning tea to acknowledge the service of Barry Clark OAM. Barry has dedicated decades to preserving the history of Bribie Island. He joked that he is not used to all of the attention since receiving his Order of Australia Medal, but I reminded him that future generations will thank him for ensuring our stories are not lost.

We also welcomed the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety to Bribie Island to host a seniors expo. The room was packed with residents eager to learn about the support services and resources available to them. Queensland's population is aging and we must ensure our communities are equipped to support seniors to live independently, safely and with dignity. Expos like this are essential in building a truly age-friendly community, and I thank everyone who attended and contributed.

I also recently hosted a community catch-up at Palm Lake Resort in Beachmere Bay. It was wonderful to engage directly with residents, hear their ideas and concerns and provide an update on what our government is delivering locally, from infrastructure improvements to cost-of-living relief. These conversations matter. They ensure local voices are heard and give me a chance to speak to people one on one.

Another major win for our region is the Abbey Medieval Festival securing \$170,000 from the Homegrown tourism events fund. This iconic event attracts visitors from across Australia and beyond, boosting local business and showcasing the best of Queensland. It is more than a festival; it is a celebration of culture, creativity and community. I congratulate Edith and the team on this significant achievement.

Finally, I want to remind the Beachmere community that the Man Walk will be hosting a barbecue on 21 February from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm to raise funds in support of men's mental health. I am proud to sponsor this event and will also be attending. Supporting mental health initiatives at a grassroots level is vital in building stronger, more connected communities.

To our young people, the Brighter Futures grants are now open, closing on the 21st. Grants of \$250 are available to support career ambitions, extracurricular goals or community initiatives. I encourage anyone with a great idea to apply. Warrick, Gemma and Lawrence were our last grant recipients for 2025, and it has been a pleasure to help support their goals and dreams.