




Speech By
Kerri-Anne Dooley

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Redcliffe Electorate, Award Recipients

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (9.16 pm): I rise tonight to highlight three remarkable Redcliffe locals who were recently awarded public accolades for their service to the community of Redcliffe. Two received an Australia Day Medal of the Order of Australia and the third a City of Moreton Bay Community Spirit Award. I would like to first speak about Mrs Teresa Bourke, who received her OAM in the 2025 Australia Day Honours List for her service to swimming as a coach and to people with a disability. Teresa has had a distinguished career as a registered nurse for 45 years, but her OAM was for her service volunteering with Special Olympics Queensland, Down Syndrome Swimming Australia and the Redcliffe City High Performance Centre, where she currently continues to volunteer. If she was not busy enough, she also volunteers with the Breakfast Club Redcliffe, helping to feed the homeless. Congratulations, Teresa.

The second person I would like to acknowledge is Mr Wesley Bleakley of Kippa-Ring, who was also awarded an Australia Day OAM for his service and advocacy for people with a disability. Wes has been the CEO of the Redcliffe Opportunities for People's Enhancement Association, affectionately known as ROPE, for 12 years. I have known Wes for over a decade, and his leadership has introduced multiple social enterprise businesses to provide real-world employment for participants of ROPE in retail, cafes, film and TV, with the first-of-its-kind TV show called ROPE TV, hosted by young adults with a disability. This has now evolved into a national program called AbiliTV.

The third person I would like to acknowledge is Tracy Lech, another outstanding Redcliffe local, who recently received the City of Moreton Bay's Mayor's Community Spirit Award. Tracy established the not-for-profit charity Salt No Limits more than 20 years ago. Her charity supports children and young people experiencing disadvantage on the peninsula. She has assisted thousands of children and teenagers through various volunteer-run programs and weekly sporting events. She ensures all activities promote social inclusion, belonging, healthy choices and wellbeing. Tracy provides these young people opportunities they may never have experienced. I invite everyone who visits the peninsula to pop in to either the ROPE cafe at Margate or the Salt Cafe in Sutton Street, Redcliffe for a coffee that reinvests into the young people.

In closing, I again congratulate Teresa, Wes and Tracy. Thank you for your service to the people of Redcliffe and beyond.