




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (8.27 pm): I rise to speak to this bill this evening because I am really keen to highlight some of the things that I have identified as holes and to support the shadow minister's amendments in this space. When we look at a structure like this, one of the really important things we need to look at is the diversity, the expertise and the structure that we are analysing here. Diversity, of course, is the existence of a wide range of characteristics, perspectives and experiences of individuals and groups. It also includes things like race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability and so many other attributes.

Aside from those opposite, diversity is generally viewed as a very positive thing. It can lead to more creative problem-solving, better decision-making and a more inclusive environment. So I was really alarmed to see the drafting of this legislation that had no seat at the table for our para-athletes. Thanks to the member for Cooper and the member for Sandgate, that was something that was brought to light through the committee process. We wanted extra functions for the board and equal partnerships for para-sports to maximise the participation, performance and strategic investment in para-sport. We want that to be by someone with a lived experience of a disability. That is very different to the minister's amendments here that speak to someone who may have been a coach, administrator or member of a support team within para-sports—a big difference in that regard.

I want to talk to the glaringly obvious problem that exists here with women's participation, both in funding and oversight. I think that speaks to this minister's views around women's participation. We have heard from him in the past that there is a major gender imbalance if there is 68 per cent of women on a board to 38 per cent of men. We know that this is a government that does not believe in diversity. This is a government that does not back it in. This is a government that does not put a seat at the table for diversity, both with our para-sports and with our women, so we are moving amendments to support both women and our Paralympians in sport to ensure there are safeguards, to ensure there is reporting, to ensure we can see how much money is spent in those regards. We know that, despite them hauling in a lot and doing the heavy lifting, they are terribly underfunded and we want to see more in that regard.