




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

Record of Proceedings, 20 November 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Southport Electorate, Awards

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (9.25 pm): I rise to speak on the sensational Southport electorate and two very notable events that I have attended since the last sitting week. Last week I joined our generous Gold Coast community of HOTA for the Everything is Possible Thank You Celebration hosted by the Perry Cross foundation. It was an uplifting evening, bringing together donors, volunteers and supporters to reflect on an extraordinary year. A highlight was hearing from founder Perry Cross and Professor James St John from Griffith University, who shared updates on their groundbreaking work to restore movement and sensation for people with spinal cord injuries.

This year their team reached a major milestone with the commencement of Australia's first human clinical trial using advanced nasal cell nerve regeneration techniques developed right here on the Gold Coast. Their progress from early research to now world-leading clinical work offers real hope for thousands of Australians living with spinal cord injuries. It also helps advance the vision for ReNue at the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct, a future centre of excellence in neuro-wellness and spinal cord advancements that will benefit people across Queensland recovering from strokes, brain injuries and spinal cord injuries.

I also had the privilege of attending the *Gold Coast Bulletin* Women of the Year Awards last Friday evening where our city celebrated the extraordinary women who strengthen and inspire our community. This year's top honour went to Dr Robyn Cameron, who achieved an incredible trifecta, winning the People's Choice Award, Angels Among Us and the prestigious Woman of the Year Award. Over more than two decades Dr Cameron has raised vital funds and awareness for breast cancer research, growing the Pink Ribbon Cup Raceday into Australia's largest community fundraiser for the National Breast Cancer Foundation and helping establish the Gold Coast Mother's Day Classic.

The awards also recognised 17-year-old Benowa State High School student Charlotte Stent as Young Woman of the Year. A voice actor on the international hit series *Bluey*, Charlotte also serves as AACTA's youth ambassador, excels academically, undertakes university studies and will captain her school's cohort in 2026. Her achievements are made even more remarkable given the significant family health challenges she has faced, including her father's spinal surgeries following military service and her mother's melanoma diagnosis. Her resilience and leadership make her a truly inspiring young Gold Coaster.

From world-class medical breakthroughs to inspiring community leaders, Southport continues to shine. I want to give a quick shout-out to Preston Williams from AB Paterson College, who was surprised the other night to win the Special Principal's Award for contributions to the school and the community.