



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Wagner, Dr MT, AM**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (11.08 pm): I rise today to pay tribute to Dr Mary Therese Wagner AM, who recently passed away. We had a beautiful service in Toowoomba to recognise a leader of our community whose life was dedicated to faith and family. I pass on my condolences to her husband, Henry, and to her children, Kate, John, Tricia, Denis, Gregg, Elizabeth, Neill and Joe. She had 30 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She led a remarkable and exemplary life in Toowoomba. She worked for 13 years at the Mount Lofty hospital whilst raising a family. It was working at that hospital, we heard at her service, where she met her husband as she was trying to fix him up because he had injured himself at work. I will quote a couple of lines from a speech that she gave at her 70th, then later table a couple of speeches that she gave, as I think it is well to listen to her words—

Here is a little thought for you all to take with you...

Live the past with gratitude.

Live the present with enthusiasm.

Look forward to the future with confidence.

And—

My journey ... has been a fabulous adventure and there's not much I would change—because everything has led me to be right here tonight with all of you.

She spent a lot of time in our community on great causes. She chaired our Family Week committee for many years. She put a great deal of effort into her Catholic Church where her brother worked for many years. Amongst other things, she was instrumental in getting the bingo hall built for the Catholic Church. When one of our great schools in Toowoomba, Downlands College, was raising money for a sports science centre she participated by raising \$4.4 million for them. In Toowoomba we have a wonderful Cobb & Co Museum, home to the National Carriage Collection, and when it was expanding she led the fundraising and contributed millions of dollars to it. She also chaired the Young Ambassador Program, guiding young participants through fundraising and community engagement activities as part of the annual Carnival of Flowers. She supported refugee families and served as patron to the Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Service. I would not say she was a quiet achiever. Lots of people talk about the family, but the values and the commitment they have to the next generation comes from her. I have known her for many years. She has always been gracious. She will live long in our memories for her contribution to Toowoomba. Vale, Mary Wagner.

*Tabled paper:* Order of service for Dr Mary Therese Wagner AM [504](#).