

Question on Notice

No. 114

Asked on Thursday, 14 February 2008

Grace Grace MP asked the Minister for Communities, Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth (**MS NELSON-CARR**)—

As Queensland is incredibly fortunate to have so many senior volunteers who make a significant and positive difference in their communities and as I am aware that the annual Premier's Awards for Seniors was held recently – Will she outline how these awards recognise the valuable contribution of seniors throughout Queensland?

ANSWER:

Every day across Queensland, a significant number of older people volunteer their time, skills and wisdom.

They make an enormous contribution to every aspect of community life, from the arts and sport to health care, emergency services, social welfare and the environment. They help support our families, workplaces, community and economy.

It is these inspirational seniors who challenge common stereotypes of ageing that the annual Premier's Awards for Queensland Seniors honour.

Since their inception in 1986, the Awards have recognised the outstanding efforts of more than 420 older people. Award winners have included volunteers in their 80s and 90s and, in some cases, some still making a significant contribution at 100 years of age.

The Premier's Awards for Queensland Seniors aim to publicly acknowledge and show our appreciation for the invaluable efforts of older people who volunteer their time and energy in this state each year.

The 2007 Premier's Awards for Queensland Seniors were presented in Brisbane on 5 February 2008, to the following outstanding volunteers:

- Mrs Val Ferguson – Carseldine;
- Mrs Noeline Clamp – Logan Central;
- Mrs Grace Richards – Ashgrove;
- Mrs Mary Orr – Mount Gravatt;
- Mrs Sadie Gannon – Charleville;
- Miss Fay Jorgensen – Toowoomba;
- Mr Eddie Ruska – Redbank Plains;
- Mr Peter Anderson – Broadbeach Waters;
- Mr Reg Flanagan – Salisbury;
- Mr Ted Long – Meringadan (near Toowoomba);
- Uncle Albert Holt – Inala;
- Mr Guido Rizzalli – Ingham;
- Mrs Pam Dennis – Lowood (near Ipswich); and
- Mr Merv Murphy – Mudgeeraba.

Mrs Mary Farrugia from Manunda, who is 96 years of age, was unable to travel to the Brisbane Ceremony. Therefore, the Premier and I presented Mrs Farrugia with the Premier's Award in Cairns on 15 February 2008.