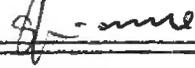


Queensland Legislative Assembly	
Number:	5620T1386
	13 AUG 2020
MP:	Non Farmer
Clerk's Signature:	
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By Leave	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dear Minister,

My name is Malia [REDACTED]. I am 8 years old and I would like to know why in every park I go to I am only seeing plaques, pictures and statues of men. WHERE ARE ALL THE WOMEN? I first noticed this when I was at Sherwood Arboretum Park and read out all the names that were engraved on the plaques on each tree. I asked my mum why these names were on the plaques and my mum told me that these were important people back from 1925 who had the honour of planting the trees. I asked my mum why only 2 of the trees that I counted were planted by women and the other 72 were planted by men. My mum told me that things were very different back in 1925 and women didn't get as many opportunities to achieve the things they do today. I then said, but it is 2020 now and I know lots of amazing women who have accomplished so much and done so many remarkable things for our country; where are the trees planted by these women?

It seems that every park I go to here in Queensland they are full of statues, plaques and pictures of men. I rarely see women. I felt sad when I went to Lanham Park at the Grange and saw a wall on the playground titled "People to aspire to be" and there were 10 men and only 2 women. I felt sad when I visited the Botanic gardens and there were 3 male statues and 4 pictures of men and not a single woman in the whole of the gardens. I was then horrified when visiting Roma Street Parklands to see a display of the 100 Queensland Greats Awards; honouring outstanding Queenslanders who have made significant contributions to our state and only 1 quarter of the plaques were dedicated to women!

Did you know:

- Only 3% of statues in Australia honour real women
- There are only 3 statues of real women in Brisbane.

- In Australia, there are more statues of animals than there are of real Australian Women

And these are just the statistics for statues. I'm sure if you did an audit on every park in Queensland you would see that the statistics would be the same for plaques and pictures. They say seeing is believing and I don't want young girls like me who are constantly *seeing* important men to start *believing* that only men are important. Girls my age need to be seeing strong female role models.

Together, with my mum we have created #FemaleFaces4PublicPlaces to try and balance gender representation in all public spaces within Queensland. I would like to see a law passed, similar to one that was put in place in San Francisco in 2018 that mandates equal representation of women in public places. I am asking you, as the Minister for Women to create a law in Queensland that requires 50% of statues, pictures and plaques in public places to depict real women.

This is NOT about fundraising or petitioning just to get a couple of extra female statues. This is about breaking the "bronze ceiling" once and for all and making sure it stays that way for me, my daughters and their daughters to come so that we are seeing and believing that women ARE important!

Kind Regards

Malia