



Speech By  
**Mark Robinson**

**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**International Women's Day**

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.24 pm): Tomorrow, Friday, 8 March, is a very special day in the Queensland calendar. It is International Women's Day. It is a day for women to celebrate what it means to be women. Women celebrating womanhood is an important social, cultural and economic thing. I have to admit that as a poor and simple male, I—perhaps we—do not always understand the women in our lives or what womanhood is about. After all, if you follow John Gray's reasoning in his book *Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus*, us Martians have no idea about secret women's business. However, there is hope for us Martians. Men can understand the fairer gender and form loving, supportive and meaningful relationships with them.

So I encourage men to celebrate with them on International Women's Day. I look forward to being one of a few thorns among 200 roses who will attend a breakfast tomorrow hosted at the Queensland parliament by Madam Speaker, Fiona Simpson. I acknowledge and congratulate Madam Speaker, not only for being appointed as Queensland's first female Speaker of the parliament but also for her initiative to honour International Women's Day with this breakfast. The focus of Queensland Inspirational Women awards for 2013 is 'honouring pioneering women from throughout Queensland'. Inspirational women abound in our communities. This inaugural breakfast is an opportunity to publicly recognise and honour inspirational women from all over Queensland. It gives me great pleasure to participate in this event and to select an individual who has led an inspiring life and achieved much.

There are many women in Cleveland and the Redland city community who would have been worthy recipients of this award. After a good amount of consideration and with the assistance of others, I selected an amazing woman as the 2013 recipient, Auntie Margaret Iselin of Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island. Auntie Margaret, a Quandamooka elder, has served her people with distinction throughout the span of her lifetime on the island. She is one of the finest Indigenous leaders in this nation. She holds fast to Indigenous traditions, loves the younger generations, is passionate about bush tucker and understands our modern world and how Indigenous Australians can prosper in it.

According to the MMEIC, Margaret Iselin, Minjerribah Moorgumpin elder, was born in 1930 at Myora Mission on North Stradbroke Island. Over the years she has lived there, she has made an amazing contribution in all kinds of ways. In particular, she has a passion for helping young people. Her door is always open to them and no one is ever judged. She has been a mentor to many young people on the island and helps them with community service opportunities and in all kinds of ways. I congratulate her today on winning this award.

I also recognise some other important women in my life: my wife, Julie; daughters, Laura, Melissa and Susannah; my mother, Lauris; my mother-in-law, Clare, and my staff as well.

*(Time expired)*