



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mother's Day; International Nurses Day

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (2.36 pm): Today in the House I am delighted to speak about two very important days in our yearly calendar of events, Mother's Day and International Nurses Day. Those days are close to the heart of every family and, indeed, every community. Each and every one of us is indebted to the love and nurturing of our own mothers and today I pay tribute to my mum, Lauris Robinson. Undoubtedly, our mothers have had a guiding hand in enabling us to grow into the roles that we undertake in this parliament on behalf of our respective constituencies.

I thank the mothers in my electorate of Cleveland for all that they do. I do not believe that anyone could prepare a duty statement that incorporates everything that mums do in their day-to-day lives, often whilst juggling multiple tasks, all at the same time. Of course, mums' roles vary markedly. We have stay-at-home mums and working mums, mums who take on the care of elderly relatives as well as their own families and mums who volunteer their time to help out at school tuckshops and sporting clubs, to name but a few.

Last Sunday, Mother's Day 2016, I visited the Birkdale Flower Farm, which has been owned and operated by the Sihota family in the Redlands for over 36 years. Nova FM radio was also in attendance to promote and acknowledge the significant role that Sihotas' flowers play on special days such as Mother's Day. The Birkdale Flower Farm has become quite iconic. It is recognised across Brisbane as a supplier of quality blooms. Judging by the flowers that I saw on the day, there would have been many happy mums on Mother's Day.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that my wife, Julie, was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers that had been lovingly grown at the Sihotas' farm. Our youngest son, Isaac, was very proud to hand over the flowers on behalf of his six siblings. We love you, Julie, and appreciate all that you do for us. To Julie I say: you are definitely a wonder woman, with a heart of gold.

Some of our working mums are nurses and midwives. It is fitting that we pay tribute to them today, International Nurses Day, for the valuable contribution that they make to society. I have had the opportunity to meet many of the wonderful nurses and midwives who work at Redland Hospital, several of whom are wives and mothers who juggle work and family commitments and undertake night shifts to ensure that our community is afforded the best possible care. It is appropriate that 12 May was chosen to celebrate International Nurses Day as it is the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Locally, the Redland Centre for Women is doing a great job supporting women in our community. The WAVSS Domestic Violence Service is also doing a wonderful job.

I conclude by saying that pregnancy and motherhood are very special things. My wife has had seven children born alive. Unfortunately, we lost three children in the womb. We love all 10 of them. Human life in the womb is precious and should be given the greatest protection that we can afford. I give a shout-out to all the mums of Cleveland.