

~~chair of the PCMC. She will do a fantastic job in that role. In fact, the report also makes recommendations in relation to election activities, and this is why I was making the point. During the campaign the former member for Mount Coot tha, Andrew Fraser, continually referred matters to the CMC. The Labor Party has used the CMC as a political football for far too long. During the election campaign three matters were referred to the CMC and the CMC had to come back and say on all matters that no investigation was required into the Premier—no matters.~~

~~Opposition members interjected.~~

~~Madam SPEAKER: Order! There are too many interjections in the chamber. I call the minister.~~


~~Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I can understand the interjections being made, because the member for Bundamba was a member of the former government and participated in that negative, vile campaign against the Premier and his family. Queenslanders never want to see that again in this state. That is why I have said that we will review the CMC's operations in terms of how politicians on all sides can use the CMC, but in this case the Labor Party used the CMC for its own political trickery and of course there was no case to answer. The former Premier said, 'I've got no evidence but the CMC should investigate it.' It is shameful that the Labor Party used the CMC in that process.~~

~~Question put—That the motion be agreed to.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 30 May (see p. 337).

 **Mrs MENKENS** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.33 am): It is again a great honour to be able to present an address-in-reply to the Governor Her Excellency Penelope Wensley's address to the parliament. At this point I want to acknowledge the work that Her Excellency the Governor does. My electorate of Burdekin has been privileged to have had her visit the area many times. During this past term she has had four visits that I am aware of—to the magnificent wetland area of Cromarty and the Wongaloo Conservation Park, which is under the stewardship of the former member for Burdekin, Mr Mark Stoneman. I am aware of the encouragement and support that the Governor has given to Mark in his quest to further develop the Wongaloo Conservation Park, which is one of the best-kept secrets of Queensland—as yet, the best undeveloped conservation park in North Queensland.

Her Excellency has also accepted and attended the Engineering Heritage National Landmark award from Engineers Australia where she unveiled the Engineering Heritage National Landmark marker and replica interpretive panel in commemoration of the engineering feats of the mighty Burdekin Bridge, which was built over 50 years ago. She spoke at the annual conference of Landcare held in Ayr when the then Mayor of Burdekin, Lyn McLaughlin, and I were privileged to be able to spend the day with Mr McCosker and her and show them much of Ayr. In December last year she again came to Home Hill to help the town celebrate its centenary—the centenary of when the first cane ballots were held in 1911. The Governor's dignity, compassion and friendliness is well known and I have certainly been able to see that firsthand in the Burdekin. She brings great joy to all of the people that she meets and shows such avid interest in what they do.

This is an historic parliament as the first LNP government for Queensland—a can-do government that is committed to delivering to Queenslanders, to rebuild this magnificent state and to provide a totally honest and accountable government. I offer my personal congratulations and thanks to the Premier, Campbell Newman, and the leadership team—Deputy Premier, the Hon. Jeff Seeney, and the Treasurer, the Hon. Tim Nicholls. We have emerged from one of the nastiest election campaigns that Queensland has ever seen, but what this election showed was that Queensland people are totally sick of spin and have seen through the veneer to the substance that is the Labor Party of Queensland. The personal attacks on the Newman family were totally reprehensible and I commend the fortitude—the fortitude and the strength of character—that the whole family showed, and, as we have seen, the people of Queensland shared that view. I commend the Premier, the Hon. Campbell Newman, and the leadership team for their unerring commitment to the people of Queensland—a commitment to turn the state's economy around and to renew confidence in the business community.

It is a very proud time to be an LNP-led government in Queensland. I have been honoured and privileged to be elected for a fourth term to represent the electorate of Burdekin. May I sincerely congratulate the new LNP members, who I know are going to be proud representatives for their constituencies. Queensland looks forward to a new, confident future. I pass on my sincere congratulations to the new Speaker, Fiona Simpson—the first female Speaker in the Queensland parliament. It is excellent to see the LNP leading the way yet again. To this extent, I must thank the constituents of the Burdekin electorate—the constituents of the Burdekin electorate who have given me their support for eight years, and that support I do not take lightly.

It is an honour, a privilege and a responsibility to be able to represent the great North Queensland people of the Burdekin electorate. I am a proud and an unashamed parochial North Queensland and

my commitment to the electorate is that I will continue to fight for North Queensland and the regions of Queensland. North Queensland has been ignored for years under Labor and I welcome the Premier's commitment to deliver for North Queensland and the regions. It is so good to have seven new members elected in North Queensland—three in Cairns, three in Townsville and of course my neighbour, Jason Costigan, the new member for Whitsunday. I really must congratulate the Hon. David Crisafulli for having been appointed as Minister for Local Government and the Hon. Andrew Cripps as Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. North Queensland is well represented.

The Burdekin was traditionally a conservative seat, but changing demographics and election boundaries have changed that structure. Following the retirement of former National Party member for Burdekin Mark Stoneman, the seat of Burdekin fell to One Nation and then to Labor. In 2004 we were able to regain that seat. I sincerely thank and acknowledge the magnificent LNP support team who have been behind us all the way. Our support team in Bowen has been led by Bob Harris and Greg Smith, two very loyal footsloggers who were behind us the whole way.

014 The Home Hill branch has been led by David Macdonald and he has a wonderful team of committed members, many of whom are really long-serving members. They hold memberships of well over 30 or 40 years. I love them all. The members of the Burdekin branch, which is chaired by Neville Dickinson, meet very regularly. They meet under the great hospitality of Senator Ian Macdonald and his wonderful wife, Lesley. I believe it is their hospitality that is the reason this branch is so successful and the reason it meets so regularly. Let us face it: Macca always puts on a good party.

The township of Clare in my electorate is a very loyal area. It has lots of great members and good people. Just a couple of those are the Hall family and the Tudehope family, who are always there and who are always supportive of the community. Giru is another small community and it is a wonderfully supportive area. I sincerely thank Gary Stockham and the Lyons family in particular for their support. The Friday night goose club at the Giru International Hotel is a night not to be missed. Ennio Gazzola will ensure that anyone attending is not left out. Small towns and communities make up the very tapestry of rural Queensland and there are always wonderful community people behind the scenes who make those towns into communities. In Giru, I certainly salute Betty Corradi.

A third of the Burdekin electorate is situated in the Townsville City Council area. It encompasses the southern suburbs of Townsville. Of course, I tell everybody that the southern end is by far the best part of Townsville. I must put on record my sincere thanks to Don and Elizabeth Hick, Sandra Richards, Melinda Holborn and the many other members of the Mount Stuart and Ross River branches who have worked so hard. Their hard work has really paid off, because we see three great new members representing Townsville. Townsville is now all in the blue.

The week of the election was one of the wettest for 2012. Roads everywhere were cut off and certainly many people who applied for postal votes were unable to make them. In that election the postal votes of people in Home Hill were to arrive in Ayr, which is only 12 kilometres away. Those postal votes did not get there, because that mail goes to Townsville and then comes back to Ayr. But the Bruce Highway was closed totally and absolutely no mail went through the Bruce Highway between Monday and Friday. I know that was very disappointing, because it is everybody's democratic right to vote. But again, the Bruce Highway was cut in areas where that could have been avoided. They were not major flood-prone areas. It was not a particularly large flood. That is very disappointing. I certainly look forward to the success of the LNP push towards looking at the Bruce Highway and being able to improve it from a flood perspective.

I cannot talk about election assistance during that very wet week without mentioning Jim Hillier, who lives on the other side of the Bowen River, which was flooded. He flew by helicopter across the flooded Bowen River to assist Carol Wyper, Margaret Philp and Yvonne Cox in Collinsville. I have no doubt that their presence there certainly had quite a lot to do with the increase in the LNP vote and the collapse of the Labor vote in Collinsville.

However, the real strength of the campaign team throughout the last three years—and the last six years, actually—has been my campaign manager, Jim Gist. Jim has given up hours of his time. Jewel is his understanding wife. She puts up with us all, to the extent that she is now even a secretary as well. I thank Jim and Jewel for all their support, for their friendship and for their assistance. We could not have done this without them. I know that Jim had some wonderful discussions with head office throughout this time. I certainly know that all of us in my area respect his professional approach.

Particular thanks must also go to my very good friend Jan Callow, who has moved into the campaign office during every election campaign and has taken over very professionally all of the office work. She is a very busy person and she gives up her whole time to sort out postal votes and all of the applications and so forth that come through during this very busy time. I wish I could name all the members who have assisted so loyally for so many years. They are the strength of the LNP and I truly value their friendship.

I also wish to pay special tribute to my staff—the Burdekin electorate office staff. Julie Lawrie has been with me since the beginning, and her professional attitude and her ability have set a tone and standard for the office. I thank Jeanette Garvey and Corrina McLean so much for their loyalty,

professionalism and hard work. The success of any local member is due to their staff and the success and professionalism of their office. Certainly, we are very fortunate in the Burdekin.

My rock and my real strength is my wonderful husband, Ray, whom I have been married to for over 40 years.

**Mr Rickuss:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs MENKENS:** I thank the member for Lockyer. We are a farming and grazing family. Ray married a dutiful wife who gave up teaching to stay home and cook cakes and biscuits.

**A government member:** Where is she?

**Mrs MENKENS:** Where has she gone? She cooked cakes and biscuits for smokos and lunches for all the farmers. She was also doing a bit of work down at the paddock.

**Mr Langbroek:** On 7 February 2004 it all came to an end.

**Mrs MENKENS:** It did come to an end. It came to an end a little earlier than that. Over the years things change. Now, Ray very good-naturedly accepts being invited to functions as 'partner'. That is a very big change to undergo for a traditional husband of our era. It is a huge change of focus and it is a huge change of expectations. Bless you, Ray. We are both very fortunate and I love you dearly. Our real joy is our family. We have a daughter, two great sons and two wonderful daughters-in-law, and over the last two years we have welcomed three beautiful grandchildren and hopefully will welcome another one before Christmas. So this last term—this last three years—has seen some wonderful things happening in my family. Let us face it: families are the centre of all of our communities. It is families that are so relevant and so important right across the work we do and it is part of the focus of government, particularly the LNP government. It is very important to focus on families.

I am very happy to claim that the Burdekin electorate is the most vibrant and the most diverse electorate in the whole of Queensland, even though many of my colleagues, of course, are justly proud of their own electorates. They may disagree with me, but the Burdekin electorate is really a very special part of Queensland. The people of the Burdekin electorate are wonderful, the industry is vibrant and the economic potential of the area is huge. The Burdekin electorate is the home of Abbot Point, where so much is about to happen. Abbot Point is a coal terminal—a coal-exporting port—and it is poised to expand with the opening of the Galilee Basin. The Deputy Premier has announced that there will be an expansion at Abbot Point, which will multiply the coal exports from that port four times. That is going to be absolutely huge for the district and huge for the town of Bowen. Of course, that expansion brings with it a lot of changes to the local community, but the community of Bowen is geared up. The people there know that there are going to be changes. They are geared up for what this expansion will do for the community. With this expansion there will be so much economic potential, so many jobs that will be brought into the district, and we are looking forward to the challenge.

I certainly commend the LNP government, which has committed to deliver. They are not just empty promises: the LNP is committed to deliver to Abbot Point and to the economic future of North Queensland. This will benefit not just Bowen or the Burdekin electorate; this will flow right across North Queensland and, of course, through the Galilee Basin and small communities such as Alpha which will grow and benefit as a result.

**Mr Rickuss:** Are you going to look after my two big farmers, too?

**Mrs MENKENS:** I am going to look after all the Lockyer big farmers and, of course, the member for Lockyer as well. It is a privilege to be able to serve the community of Burdekin. Having been there for eight years, I really do welcome this next term of three years to be with my friends, constituents and colleagues in the Burdekin electorate.

**015** **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (11.50 am): I would like to respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of this beautiful land and pay tribute to their elders both past and present who have nurtured this land for thousands of years. They now share their stories and traditions with us. I would also like to congratulate Madam Speaker on her elevation to the important role of Speaker of this House. I believe she will fulfil this role in a fair and fearless way. It is, as many have noted, the first time in the history of the Parliament of Queensland that a woman has been elected to this position. Sadly, with the loss of the electorate of Bulimba—with the count finally favouring the LNP—this House now has just 17 women representing the 89 seats in this state; falling from 33 in the previous parliament, 26 of whom represented the Australian Labor Party. Why should this be significant? While men are perfectly capable of performing all of the requirements as a member of this place, women bring their own perspective. In a country where we talk about equity and equality this should be reflected in the place where legislation is enacted affecting the whole of our communities.

At a time when a government is slashing jobs, some of which will be single income households, we need the plight of vulnerable families and vulnerable women to be represented. I hope there will be a concerted effort for relocation and/or retraining to recognise the importance of employment to all of those affected. Voices within cabinet were obviously silent when a decision was made to cease funding to Sisters Inside for their work with Aboriginal and Islander women imprisoned in Townsville. There

is ample evidence of positive outcomes and financial benefit to turning lives around to enable women who may not have had an opportunity in education and training to be set on a path that will secure them a future far removed from their former life. I am aware that there is no money tree nor bottomless pit in government, so the decisions are ones of priority. I strongly believe in a safety net for those who require help, but I also believe one of the most important roles we can play is to keep improving our education and training programs and inspiring our young people and others to reach and strive for higher goals. I will address this issue further on in my speech.

There have been many accolades for our previous Speaker, the Hon. John Mickel, who has been acknowledged by all who served in this place during his time as one of the finest. He brought to this House a style of his own, always even-handed and wise in his counsel, allowing robust debate but always in control. However, for me it was always the personal interest he took in young people, such as our student leaders when they visited this place, or the multicultural community, the multifaith services he held or the children's choirs who sang carols at Christmas time. John never forgot the needs of his community and will always be remembered as a true people person, warm and friendly, committed to high family values, a champion for education and opportunities for all and for his wise advice to members such as myself when we needed to find a way through a difficult issue. He is a sad loss to this place.

I wish to now turn to issues within my community of Woodridge, a place that I love, where the colourful mosaic of people from many different lands immediately captures your attention. Here you will find former refugees from African nations, Asia and the Middle East, including many war-torn countries from where some have embarked on dangerous journeys to flee the fighting and unrest to find a place where they can live in peace. We are a migrant nation with a sad history, much of which is even now being revealed for the first time. Our knowledge of Australian history has suffered from being ignored, sanitised or, worse still, misrepresented. Whether a person is part of our ancient original inhabitants or part of the many waves of migration to this country, we want to see a society where respect is given to all, where we are each one prepared to listen and hear another story leading to greater understanding and where we give opportunity for education, employment, services and support where hopefully each one can find a place of meaning and acceptance by those around them.

As I represent an area which has long had a high level of unemployment, I have witnessed over many years the pride, self esteem and change in life direction brought about by financial independence for those who have undergone many of our training and skilling programs resulting in jobs, be they highly skilled requiring ongoing study right through to manual labour or in our government departments, our service industry or in a myriad of other jobs. I want to commend many of our organisations that work tirelessly to reclaim young lives, train workers needing to reskill, assist mums, carers, people with disabilities and long-term unemployed into jobs. Others work with our former refugees to assist them through such issues as learning English, financial management, obtaining a driver's licence or undergoing training that will lead to meaningful employment.

There are many partners involved in these diverse aspects of ensuring our community members have the opportunity to fully engage in daily life, be it in paid employment or volunteering, and I would be remiss not to mention many other of our government departments, both federal and state, whose workers play such an important role in ensuring communities such as Woodridge offer residents opportunities for advancement, such as Immigration, Police, Communities, Education, Training and Employment, Economic Development to name but a few. The non-government sector has an equally important role and I pay tribute to organisations such as Boystown, the YMCA Flexi School, Kingston College Continuing Education Centre, Career Keys, Max Employment, ACCES Services, ADRA, Sarina Russo, Sally's Place, NOVA Employment, Youth & Family Services, Red Cross, Mission Australia and our Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE. Now as I listen to news of our impending labour shortages and then hear of workers being brought into the country on special visas I want to remind our federal government of the many potential workers who may not at this moment have the required skills, but would willingly be trained to fill some of these positions; not to mention those who will be needed to backfill the jobs left vacant by the rush of workers to the mining fields.

The huge gaping hole in our education and training programs is seen in our New Zealand community members who have now made Australia home, those who have come since February 2001 and find themselves locked out of so much, such as HECS help for university. It is a huge disappointment to a student and their family to work hard at high school, gain entrance to university to be told they have to pay upfront fees, no HECS help is available under the trans-Tasman agreement nor are Centrelink payments possible for unemployment, disability, rental subsidy, carer payments and nor is there access to public housing. So we find in my community, and those similar, overcrowding in houses because of job losses, young people taking on jobs way below their capacity and, for those who have left home and are unemployed, no income whatsoever thus we find a youth service on the Gold Coast handing out tents and food and some of these young people living rough or couch surfing and, even worse, entering a life of crime.

Yes, we now see some of our former refugees in higher education and entering our professional ranks, but sadly few are from our Pacific Islands and they are the largest ethnic community group in

Logan. Thanks to the leadership of Dr Judith Kearney at the Logan campus of the Griffith University, Glenda Stanley, Va'a Alofipo and the many members of our churches and organisations such as the Voice of Samoan People, along with many other strategic partners such as our school principals, progress is being made on a number of fronts. When we see a whole section of our community settled in Australia, working and paying their taxes, making a huge contribution to community life, their youngsters taking on leadership roles in our schools and adding a great vibrancy and colour to every aspect of life, how can we, in all conscience, lock them out of full participation and, indeed, access to citizenship of our country? I believe this to be unconscionable and wrong and I will continue to advocate strongly on behalf of this very disadvantaged community. Their plight in Australia should attract the urgent attention of both state and federal governments, including the New Zealand government.

The most fertile ground in any electorate is in our schools, where we see youngsters being nurtured and inspired to reach high and lofty goals. Being part of the national partnership scheme with additional funds and resources from the federal government, along with the new facilities built during the economic downturn, we have witnessed, and continue to do so, great increases in results in all facets of learning. The principals, teachers and other staff have risen to the challenge and, when viewed as distance travelled, I believe that the revolution in education is well and truly evident in all schools in the Woodridge electorate. Crestmead, Kingston and Woodridge North primaries now have C&K kindies onsite, built by our state government. Those programs will result in higher standards of learning, laying a strong foundation when the young ones enter prep.

For many in the community, volunteering in Logan City is almost akin to living and breathing. It is a community of great heart and magnificent services. Our business community and in particular our chamber of commerce are great community partners. Time does not permit me to mention all I would wish to. You will find volunteers wherever you go: in our Meals on Wheels; our hospital; SES; PCYC; sporting clubs; churches; musical, arts and theatre groups; garden and seniors clubs; service organisations such as Lions and Rotary, Soroptimist International and Zonta; P&Cs; Neighbourhood Watch groups; Volunteers in Policing; and so many more such as our Mission Possible group, which sews for our hospital; aged-care facilities; Camp Quality; and Child Safety. In recent years, our students have adopted volunteering in many ways such as fundraising activities, visiting aged-care facilities and the like. In fact, volunteering underpins so many of the functions in our community. Today, I wish to pay tribute to each one who gives unstintingly of their time to help others.

Perhaps one of the more public demonstrations of love and care within a community, which ultimately led to a huge volunteer effort, was in the aftermath of the tragic fire in Slacks Creek when 11 precious lives were taken. The shared grief within our community was poured out in many ways and is still the memory that invokes tearful recollections for many. Both our Samoan and Tongan communities were cloaked in grief and our entire community was profoundly affected. Our police, fire, emergency services officers, SES officers, Salvation Army officers, church leaders, Logan Funerals and many others were magnificent in the sensitive way they supported and assisted this community. Both Logan City Council and the previous state government were heavily involved, both financially and through offering support. We walked their journey every step of the way and, finally, it led to the rebuilding of that home involving many partners. I pay tribute to my former colleague Evan Moorhead, who played a major role in that effort, as did Dave Hanna and many volunteers from the BLF, Hutchinson Builders, Mirvac and many other contractors and community partners. That home will always remain as a sentinel of the care of a community for their own. It has been constructed with much symbolism, such as the 11 pillars in the front fence, the flowering shrubs that were carefully selected and every aspect that went into its construction. To Tau, Treicee, Ierimiah and Misi: we can never understand the depths of your pain and grief, but your story will forever be woven into the history of our city and remain in the hearts of many.

To continue the theme of volunteering, during election campaigns many join together in a cause they strongly believe in. While we always have a veritable army of volunteers, for this election we had people volunteering who had never before taken part in a campaign. While we have seen a devastating result for our party, change was forecast for several years before and many had lost faith in our government, which had failed to listen and give heed to the issues that were troubling to our electors. In Australia, few governments are given a mandate beyond three or four terms and it is now up to those of us who remain in this place and out in the wider community to rebuild and rejuvenate. The long history and traditions, the sense of social justice for all, the concept of fairness and equality, of standing shoulder to shoulder with workers as over the years our unions have fought and won so many of the conditions that all workers enjoy today—those are the reasons for the existence of the Australian Labor Party. There is a sense that we may see some of those hard-won conditions eroded away and on this side of the House, although small in number, we will be ever vigilant.


There are many whom I would like to thank for their support and sacrifice of time and effort. Families bear a huge burden when a member enters political life and that has been an experience particularly for my husband, Lee. He keeps our home going while I am absent and sacrifices so much personally. There are many sacrifices of our own personal time and the inevitable absences when we simply cannot join in family events. In this House we all understand that and attempt in some way to balance our personal and working life, but at times it is very difficult.

There are many people who during the recent campaign sacrificed much of their own personal time. Now I would like to pay tribute to just some of them. First are my electorate staff, Sandy Boyd and Chris Harkins, both of whom carry a huge load serving the electorate. Sandy has been with me since 2001. She keeps me on track and has a wonderful network of partners to call on to solve issues. Chris comes with a great wealth of experience, both in the housing and social welfare sectors, and her ability to case-manage and solve personal issues is greatly appreciated. Michael Eborn has taken a major role in every state and federal election since the early 1970s. Once again he was there with me, organising booth rosters and ensuring that all was in readiness for election day.

Thank you to Sandy and Hank, Lonnie and many from my Samoan community who assisted with our signs and the army of workers who manned booths and assisted in many other ways. My thanks go to Richard Justice, Elizabeth Copson, Paul Wincen, Mick and Caitlin Noble, Leif Bremmerman, Jim Sykes, Julie Holden, Kerri Alexander, Teresa Lane and others from Craig Emerson's office, Joy Wright or 'Tilly', John and Judy Wilson, Louis Noronha, Barry Ramsay, Ron Robison, Gordon Coulson, Robyn Caffery, Josephine Aufai, Ivan Bicanic, Sandy Willett, Hank Lewis, Daphne Godden, Daniel Zingifuboro, Aunty Betty McGrady, Neville Scholes, Luca and Elizabeth Camay, Geoff Greenfield, Hazel Hubbard, Craig O'Leary, Don Frew, Geoff and Catherine McGregor, the Maori Warriors, Juan Santa Cruz, John Ruthenberg, Jeremie Heri, Gota-A-Bahanibanje and many others.

While we retained the seat of Woodridge, as a party we are bruised but not without heart. Many now want to help us rebuild, some who have been Labor voters and now wish to be more involved. While seven members may be not much more than a handful, we come to this place each sitting week with great heart and a firm resolve that we will be the solid base upon which this party will once again rise to be the upholder of our strong Labor values. Thank you to those who have stood by us. We will need all of your support and help in the years ahead.

017 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! Before we continue, there is too much noise and chatter in the House. I just ask all members that, if you need to speak, that is fine but please keep it quiet. The second thing is that there is too much unnecessary moving about in the chamber. It would certainly help the House if you restrict your movements around the chamber to a minimum. Just out of courtesy to those making their speeches, if you would not walk between the Speaker and the member giving their speech, that would help as well. Before calling the member for Brisbane Central, I remind the House that it is the member's inaugural speech and as such the member shall heard in silence. I call the member for Brisbane Central.

 **Mr CAVALLUCCI** (Brisbane Central—LNP) (12.10 pm): I rise here today to speak for the first time in this House. I do so proudly and with the greatest honour present my address-in-reply to Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland's speech at the opening of the 54th Parliament. I pledge my loyalty to this parliament and to the electors of Brisbane Central.

I would firstly like to pass on my sincerest congratulations to the member for Maroochydhore on becoming the first female Speaker in Queensland. I would like to make particular mention of thanks to Madam Speaker for the many occasions during my campaign when I required the voice of wisdom, knowledge and fair judgement—attributes no doubt which will be administered to this House from the highest and most respected of roles which she now occupies.

Mr Deputy Speaker, today I stand before you as the proud middle son of Italian migrants. Our family story is not unlike most immigrant stories following the Second World War. Our family is the cornerstone of all our strength, our successes and our values. Why is it that strength and family are all too common qualities when we refer to Italian immigrant families? I believe it is because our bonds with this country initially were forged through struggle and hardship. Our families fled to a place which seemed to provide equality of opportunity and where you could be rewarded by the efforts of your labours.

Both of my grandfathers came to this country alone and by sea, armed with nothing more than optimism and an unstoppable work ethic. Their means may have been meagre but their dreams were not. They worked as labourers on projects like the Roma Street tunnel and, like most immigrants of the time, when the work concluded they followed the work to the cane fields of North Queensland, where still even today the results of immigrant labour is legendary. They were foreign men and women in a foreign land trying to speak a foreign language, and it would be two years before they sent for the rest of the family to join them, eventually settling in boarding houses in Bowen Hills and then homes in New Farm.

It was this work ethic, the value inherent in the principle of individual responsibility and the belief in the concept of reward for effort that allowed them to seize their second chance at life. That struggle and hardship that I referred to earlier ultimately went on to define the success of many immigrant families who settled here and that now leaves my 88-year-old grandfather with a genuine feeling of gratitude to this country he now calls home.

It was these very beliefs instilled in me that ultimately led me to the Liberal Party many years ago. I was always a believer in small governments which provide efficient services that ensure equality of opportunity, not equality of outcome, whilst providing a safety net to those who lack the capacity to take

care of themselves. I do not believe, like those who sit opposite do, that human nature is some form of social construct that an all-knowing government is required to reshape with the ideal of achieving earthly perfection.

With my proud multicultural heritage, it makes me even prouder to be afforded the honour and the privilege of the role of Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I am absolutely passionate about celebrating the diversity which exists both in the electorate of Brisbane Central and across Queensland. There is so much to be gained through cultural understanding, tolerance and acceptance of those who differ from ourselves, and it can be achieved through actions as simple as the recognition of the positive impact one's cultural and economic contribution have made to the fabric of Queensland's society.

Brisbane Central is a spectacular place to live, to work and to raise a family. It is spectacular because of its diversity. Woven into the fabric of Brisbane Central are a string of unique characters that make their way around the unique places which traverse the electorate. The Fortitude Valley heart has spent the last 20 years searching for its own renaissance, from what was sometimes a dark and gloomy place into a glowing entertainment and shopping precinct second to none. The only thing missing was the inertia supplied by the political will of its local representatives to unite the stakeholders. I am pleased that this is now occurring. Any efforts to improve the Valley's broader commercial appeal in order to help solve its social outcomes must ensure that in every way we retain the character and the charm which makes the Valley a crucible of artistic expression.

In discussions at a recent Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting that included venue owners, support services and music lovers, more than anything else, the stakeholders recognised, as did I, their good fortune in being involved in what was described as the most energetic and pulsating entertainment precinct in the nation. The levels of fun, entertainment and night-life that are being delivered are extraordinary, and we recognise the challenges but we must work together on the areas which need addressing.

When you look at a map, directly to the right of Brisbane Central you have the electorate of Clayfield and to the left you have Ashgrove. I could not think of a better place to be—located between the Treasurer and the Premier. Whilst I do not see any metaphors there, I do see opportunity for the people of Brisbane Central.

Brisbane Central has the CBD at its heart, the centre of trade and commerce for all of Queensland. A significant number of small to medium businesses populate the city fringe through the Valley, Newstead, Spring Hill and Bowen Hills. Without question, these businesses are suffering and were simply not protected from the stranglehold of regulation and taxation imposed on business by the previous Labor government. The LNP government makes its pledge to you that once again your entrepreneurial spirit will flourish as this government will get off your back.

We have Chinatown and its mall, the Queen Street Mall, the Valley Mall, the James Street precinct, the spectacular New Farm Park and the Powerhouse, Newstead Riverpark, the Kelvin Grove Urban Village and the iconic RNA showgrounds and home to the Ekka. We have two Queensland University of Technology campuses; the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and the Royal Children's Hospital; the botanical gardens; and the 46 hectares of parklands from Downey Park to Spencer Park, which is one of the most utilised sporting grounds in Brisbane. There is even an 18-hole golf course at Victoria Park in Herston. Finally, there is this House, where the Premier, Campbell Newman, will restore good governance to this state once again.

We have amazing community groups, working with a common purpose and common effort so that we can all share the benefits of this community together. We have the National Association of Immigrant Families, Casa Italia, the New Farm neighbourhood community centre, Rotary clubs, outreach and drop-in centres for homeless like the 139 Club and Footprints, and many more.

My affection and bond with the electorate is immeasurably strong. So much so—and to the horror I am sure of some of my regional parliamentary colleagues—I have never resided more than 2½ kilometres from the Brisbane CBD. I have, by and large, lived my entire life in Wilston. My mother still lives there in the family home that her and dad bought in 1969 when they were married. My grandfather, who I spoke of earlier, still lives beside her. My older brother, Paul, and his family live a few metres away from me. In the four or five years that I happened to venture out of Wilston, I lived in one of the most stunning and historic parts of the electorate and which is even closer to the city, and that is Teneriffe. Each July over 30,000 people join to celebrate Teneriffe's history, cultural diversity and beauty at the Teneriffe Festival.

018 As a youngster, like many locals, I was taught to swim at the Spring Hill Baths, which have stood since 1886 and which adjoin the Brisbane Central electorate office on Boundary Street. Both of my grandmothers worked in the Villa Maria Convent in Spring Hill and for many years assisted elderly nuns while working in other nursing homes in New Farm.

Our family business has always operated from Windsor, where I have worked for the last 15 years, and it recently celebrated its 30-year milestone. I went to primary school at St Patrick's College in Fortitude Valley. I went to junior and high schools at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace in Spring Hill.

This amazing school, now 136 years old, had one of the most profound influences on my life, as it has on just about all the young men who have passed through its gates, which is why I enrolled my son in the school when he was just one-week-old, where he will join his cousins as third-generation Terracians.

Terrace has a proud tradition of service to others—initiatives such as Eddie's Van play a critical role in the electorate, providing food and support for the marginalised and to those who are sleeping rough. Manned by Terrace students, old boys and volunteers, it helps students understand the mechanics behind personal poverty and the development of empathy for those less fortunate than themselves. Brother Damien Price deserves particular mention as being one of the most inspirational characters one could ever hope to meet. The outcomes delivered to the poor and the downside of advantage through his involvement with the Edmund Rice Foundation is nothing short of remarkable.

Post high school I did manage to venture out of the electorate as I undertook studies at the University of Queensland in St Lucia. However, this was offset by the student jobs I took which included years as a barman at Dooley's Irish Pub in the Valley and in the stands of Ballymore during rugby season.

I am compelled to speak about and recognise those individuals who sacrificed so much in order to provide me with every opportunity to be in this House today. Very early in the campaign we made the decision to knock on the door of every home in the electorate, a task which I completed 1½ times during the campaign. I did so in order to engage directly with the constituents about the issues which mattered to them and to deliver the LNP's positive plans for change in Queensland. I walked every street in Brisbane Central many times over, and what I found were parts of the inner city of Brisbane that had suffered the indignity of inaction and in some parts slow decay—the clear markings of a government that had stopped listening to its people.

As a consequence of their passion for change being equal to mine, most of the people I am about to mention made that walk with me. First and foremost, my heartfelt thanks must be conveyed to my amazing wife, Carlyn, who joins me from the gallery today. It has been 10 years since we met and our love for each other has never been stronger. Our commitment to raising our two young children and sharing parenting's many trials and joys has never been clearer. In my absences during the campaign, you have been the most amazing mother and wife, and I am grateful that we have undertaken this journey together. I am also acutely aware of the fact, as it was reported to me on many occasions, that whilst out on the campaign trail with me you were far more of a drawcard than I was. In what can only be described as the second historic feat of the last election, despite the commitment and time dedicated during the campaign we received the news barely a week prior to polling day that we were expecting our third and very much final child. I have since been informed that election babies are a rare occurrence indeed.

To my immediate family, my mother, Maria, and my brother Paul, who joins me from the gallery today, and my young brother, David, on what was an immeasurable sacrifice you have all had to endure over the last few years through my absences at work and other family commitments, I offer my sincerest of thanks. Disappointingly, my mother could not be here today as she is in Toronto where she is enjoying the recent arrival of her fifth grandchild and the first for my younger brother, David. His temporary relocation to Toronto, where he is learning a pioneering procedure in his liver transplant surgical specialisation, I think was specifically timed in order to avoid the campaign. However, congratulations on the birth of your son and come home soon.

This is the first time ever that the community covered by the state seat of Brisbane Central has chosen to be represented by conservatives at all three levels of government. The same team of people who set out only a few years ago worked on all three of these campaigns to deliver this change and only recently was this dream realised with the successes achieved at the recent Brisbane City Council elections. I thank the federal member for Brisbane, Teresa Gambaro, for her support and give my heartfelt congratulations to Vicki Howard, the councillor for the Central Ward, for her success. She joins us from the gallery today.

For the last four years the three of us worked tirelessly as a united team. On a daily basis we worked together for the issues that mattered most to those we now all represent. Obviously I am overjoyed to be a part of this new and energetic LNP state government, but when I consider the possibilities which lay ahead for the people of Brisbane Central, now that such a cohesive team represents their interests across all levels of representation, I am truly excited for what outcomes might be achieved.

To Queensland's Senator, the honourable Brett Mason, who on countless occasions over the last four years gave of his time, guidance and friendship to help me chart a course to this House today, thank you. To Tony Gleeson, the man who after my preselection in November 2010 was out on the side of the road with me, a place to which he remained as the sun was setting the night before the election in March 2012 and every week in between—for that commitment to me, to the party, and to the Mount Coot-tha and Ashgrove campaigns, I offer my heartfelt gratitude.

To Mitch Redford and James McGrath, for the friendships formed and for the fun times during what should have been otherwise stressful ones, I offer my sincerest of thanks. To the rest of the team—



Darren Black, Liam Moorehead, Brad Carswell, Robert Lambeth, Adam Stocker, Robert Collins, Jordie, Luke Barnes, Ben Riley, John, Nathan, Alessia, Kate, Emily, Tom, Patty and Raj—there are too many to mention—thank you. Finally to my colleague and dear friend the member for Mount Coot-tha, as always, thank you for being part of the journey.

People tend to refer to effective leaders as born leaders. I believe leaders are not born. I believe that great leaders never intend to be. They are made in the moment by the choices they make and defined by the reasons they make them. The member for Ashgrove's leadership qualities stem from the fact that his desire to strive, his desire to fulfil his vision for Queensland comes from his passion to deliver better outcomes for all. You can tell the true quality of the leader he is by the standards he sets for himself and his team—an ordinary man with extraordinary determination. I thank him for his leadership during the campaign and, in particular, during the times when those who sit opposite in the most disgraceful of fashions chose to attack the integrity of his family for personal gain.


I have one last person to mention and I have purposely left this till last and that is to recognise my late father, Joe Cavallucci. Growing up we were given as much responsibility as we could handle. My father understood the delicate balance of guidance versus independence. As an adult he gave me the perspective that success in life requires initiative, individual responsibility, winners and losers, and demanding standards.

Joining the family business seemed like a very natural process and I, like my older brother Paul, was drawn by the character that my father was. He was an energy—a force. He simply made dreams come true. He was one of those characters of the electorate I mentioned earlier. He kept us grounded in our daily lives, leaving our motivations for success firmly bound by the desire not to outdo others but the desire to outdo ourselves. He used to say, 'Whatever you chose to do in life, be the best at it and be happy.' It was this loss which made me reflect on my life, and I have come to the conclusion that I had only partially understood the lessons he had taught me. Dad, for so long I was either chasing your shadows or standing on your shoulders. However, today I now understand what you meant.

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In closing, to the residents of Brisbane Central, I am very much aware of the privilege that has been afforded to me as your elected representative. I also acknowledge the trust which many of you have placed in me as you may have voted for the LNP for the first time. What I pledge to you is that I will always give my best with the values and the drive I bring with me. I will focus always on representing the whole community and I will make the effort to listen and to seek the truth. I will not stop in my cause to ensure that the Queensland parliament never stops hearing about the concerns of the people of Brisbane Central. As part of this amazing LNP team, which almost fills this House, we have already commenced on the path that will once again deliver for the people of Brisbane Central and we will get this state back on track.

*An incident having occurred in the public gallery*

 **Hon. GW ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier) (12.29 pm): I am not sure whether that clapping from the public gallery is for me or for the member for Brisbane Central. I expect it is for the member for Brisbane Central.

**Mr Langbroek:** We have heard you before.

**Mr ELMES:** Maybe I should sit down now. Mr Deputy Speaker, could I first of all ask you to convey to Madam Speaker my congratulations to her on her attaining her high office. I was also very pleased to see that the Premier came into the chamber just before I started my speech. I think the debt that all of us in the LNP owe Campbell Newman and his wife, Lisa, can never, ever be repaid by any of us. I would like to state, as I have done in the past, my undying love for Her Majesty the Queen in this her diamond jubilee year. It is a great thing that she has been with us these last 60 years.

When I came into this place as the elected representative of Noosa in 2006, I came with mixed feelings. On one hand was the immense pride of being elected to parliament for the first time. The first experience of everything is unique and it holds a special place in our memories and in shaping who we are. There was also the humility coming from that election as an MP, and of course there was that awe of responsibility causing cold sweats in my palms that more than half of the electors of Noosa—some 56 per cent—had chosen a boy from Everton Park who calls Noosa home as the one to speak on their behalf, to represent their hopes and dreams for themselves and their children in this place, to sift their wants from their needs and to deliver, and, above all, to fight tooth and nail to always keep Noosa as 'Noosa'.

Re-election in 2009 was bitter sweet. Despite increasing my personal approval, we as the alternative government did not achieve our goal. So rising to speak today as a member of the Newman LNP government is very special indeed. As well as being a member of a government holding the trust of the Queensland community with 77 of the 89 seats in the 54th Parliament, I have been further entrusted by the Premier with the ministry that manages the government's responsibilities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and I am the Minister Assisting the Premier. I cherish the trust and I cherish his faith. His trust is echoed by my cabinet and parliamentary colleagues for we are

collectively responsible to the electorate and we will be judged collectively on what we do as a team. I especially cherish the faith and trust of the 77 per cent of electors of Noosa who have sent me here once more.

The period of aspiration to govern is over. The period for the inspiration of government is realised. The period of perspiration as the responsible government is just beginning. Responsible we will be in both senses of the word—we will be a responsible government and we will act as a responsible government. As a minister, I will be dealing with another tier of elected government—local Indigenous councils—as part of my responsibilities with the Minister for Local Government, who was in the chamber a second ago. I have met many of the mayors, councillors and CEOs already and I have a very, very high regard for them personally.

Above all things, the Liberal National Party is a party which stands for the individual. As I have said before in this place, the LNP is a party which encourages aspiration by the individual, provides for the equality of opportunity, facilitates the way forward by which the individual may achieve and by which the individual may succeed to the advantage of us all, and provides a hand-up delivering independence rather than a handout which ensures dependency.

There is much to do in Queensland, and there is much to do in Queensland for our Indigenous communities. My first experience as a minister was only a few weeks ago on a visit to Cairns where I met Indigenous mayors and attended the funeral of the mayor of Aurukun. Last week I had the privilege of again going to the Far North to Coen to witness the handover by the Premier of traditional lands to traditional people. I followed this up with another two days of meetings with leaders of Indigenous community organisations.

I want to reinforce that this is a government which stands for the rights of our Indigenous communities, especially their land rights. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be in no doubt that the Newman government is committed in partnership to their future. We support native title, but the present native title arrangements to me are un-Australian. The present native title arrangements mitigate against the aspirations of Indigenous Australians to own their own land, to own their own home and to have a job in meaningful employment by which to provide with pride for their own family and their community.

The present native title arrangements hold land in community trusts too often, with little practical advantage for the Indigenous community. Native title was a great step forward for Indigenous Australians, but the time since the Mabo decision has shown us some of the practical flaws. We need this native title concept to advance, to become contemporary, so as to meet the emerging needs of Indigenous Australians now in 2012 and in the years ahead and for the generations to come. We see Indigenous Australians integrated into mainstream Australian society if that is their choice. We cannot in all consciousness support the ongoing maintenance of Aboriginal societies as a curiosity of ancient times, as a relic of the past, as a political trophy to be retained in abject neglect while state and federal governments underdeliver. We want to see Indigenous people use their land in such a way as to develop economically and sustainably and beyond traditional uses only. I have reflected on these matters previously in the House.

If as a minister I can make a positive long-term improvement to the life of just one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander family, I will be pleased. If I can do the same for many families in many communities, I will be happy and that is my goal. In this regard, I am especially mindful of our intention which was so well expressed by the Premier, when he recently said—

The vision is that one day an Aboriginal man or woman living in Cape York will be able to come home to a house that they own, after a day at work on a croc farm, a prawn farm, the tropical fruit plantation or the mine, having earned real dollars instead of being on welfare, come home and enjoy a glass of beer or wine in their home. That's the vision and anyone who believes that's inappropriate well I think frankly they are being unfair and they don't want to give Aboriginal people a real future on the Cape.

I do not think that is a bad vision.


I am also mindful that the dialogue about my responsibilities is not dominated by a one-dimensional focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs while neglecting those for multicultural affairs. I am looking forward to the release next month of the information collected and reported from the 2011 national census and I will be interested to see the changes on which we will base future policies. In 2006 there were 3,904,508 people in Queensland on census night. By country of birth, there were almost as many New Zealanders as English, almost as many Germans and South Africans as Scots, surprisingly twice as many Dutch as Irish, as many Sri Lankans as Welsh and almost 55,000 people from Asian nations. Of the 18 languages identified as a language other than English spoken at home, 10 were Asian languages as well as Torres Strait Creole.

I will be interested to see the changes in our migration patterns since 2006. I look forward to the challenges that will be thrown up by this and how mindful we must be to become more culturally aware and welcoming—as are those who have taken the major step of leaving their country of birth to forge a new life in a country that for a significant number of them will be very, very different in almost every way from what they have been socialised in and grown up in.

My address would be incomplete if I did not pay tribute to those who have helped return me to this place. My re-election was helped by the team which has been with me, in many cases, from the beginning: Matt Collins; Nick Dondas; Barry Elms; Colleen Woods; Gus Hatter; Peg Burgin; Kenelm Creighton; Tony Tobin; Tony Fowler; Bruce and Glenise Clelland; David Peel; Earle Bailey, a former member of this House; David Atkinson; Chris Nolan; Sam Scanlon; and Richard Pearson. They all hold a special place in my heart, as do their wives and partners who support them so well on my behalf. They sacrifice their precious time with their loved ones for me.

There are many others in a team of 130 volunteers like Leanne Walsh, who manned polling booths on election day, and others who are ably led by a strong team of booth captains like Neil Carrington and those who letterboxed widely like Sally McKay and the Pages, also handing out flyers at the markets and other public events. Then there are those like Tony Moran who just go wherever and do whatever they are asked. They are the salt of my earth. Then there are my electorate staff who have become my friends, Lyn Parker and Barb Hannon, who are my sounding boards and who amplify the belief which my electors have in me. Special mention goes to Sam Scanlon, who was at my side almost every minute of the campaign. Sam, you are a giant among men. Last but not means least, I thank my wonderful children, Teigan and Kristin, and the beautiful person who stands shoulder to shoulder with me in everything I do, my greatest supporter and the one who keeps me grounded, my darling wife, Lesleigh. To all of those people individually and collectively, thank you. To the electors of Noosa, once again, thank you, too.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! Before calling the member for Sandgate, I remind the House that it is the member's maiden speech and as such the member shall be heard in silence. I call the member for Sandgate.

 **Ms MILLARD** (Sandgate—LNP) (12.41 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, honourable members and guests, on this proud, humbling and exciting occasion, I pledge allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II and her representative in Australia, Her Excellency the Governor-General. I also acknowledge the traditional landowners of the electorate I now represent, the Turrbal people. I want to begin my speech by paying tribute to an esteemed past resident of our electorate of Sandgate, Dr John Bradfield, who is known throughout the country for his vision, his drive, his ambitious goals and, most importantly, his achievements. Although few ever reach the heights of his accomplishments, I feel a sense of connection as both he and I share a common bond of, firstly, being residents of Sandgate and, secondly, having similar working connections, being the manufacturing sector. An engineer of distinction, his plans and dreams were not mere wishes but were accomplished. Some of those accomplishments were Brisbane's Story Bridge, Sydney's Harbour Bridge, numerous rail networks and dams, to name a few. So today, nearly 145 years after his birth at Sandgate, I dedicate myself to the people of the Sandgate electorate, whom I now proudly represent.

I am also mindful today of Mrs Irene Longman, Queensland's first female parliamentarian, who entered this chamber 83 years ago. When we think of political pioneers, it is near impossible sometimes to fully capture the challenges that they faced. In light of some of the challenges Mrs Longman faced in this very building, her achievements were extraordinary—the establishment of baby clinics and the appointment of the first Queensland female police officer. She was also responsible for changing the venue of the Children's Court and was particularly interested in the welfare of the mentally handicapped. She was also heavily involved in the establishment of opportunity classes for these citizens—a political priority that is still relevant 80 years later and for which I shall continue to lobby and advocate. With all of this achieved and more, Mrs Longman would take her meals on the veranda at Parliament House because she was never allowed in the parliamentary dining room and there were never any female toilets in the building throughout her parliamentary term. How far we have come and how thankful I am for this brave woman. It is indeed humbling to think of what our predecessors overcame, and I am thankful for the efforts of Dr John Bradfield and Mrs Irene Longman and the many others who paved the way and made it possible for a first-generation Australian woman to stand here before you today.

I succeeded Ms Vicki Darling, who represented the electorate of Sandgate for six years, and I want to record my appreciation on behalf of the constituents to not only Ms Darling but also all of my predecessors who have represented the Sandgate electorate. While some of us may differ on our political values and ideals, on behalf of the electorate I thank them for their service.

I thank my parents, Brian and Jose, who in the late 1960s set out from the other side of the world to make a new home here in Queensland. They had a vision for a new life and they took action. Initially living in a council house, they have seen their decision bear fruit in so many ways over the years and it is not one that they have regretted. As the first of my family born in Australia, it is a point of extraordinary pride that it has been possible for a member of our family to go from council house to Parliament House in one generation.

To my sisters, Susan, Jill and Anita, I offer my deepest thanks. To Susan, who passed away a few years ago: I am sorry you are not here. To Jill and Anita: I am so thankful you are my sisters and I love you deeply. To the rest of my family: you may not fully understand why I am doing this, but I can assure you that it is to make the lives of all Queenslanders better and I thank you for your continued support

and even your curiosity. Our family motto has been for me a very much lived experience—'Keep tryst and trust'. I think that sits comfortably alongside our state's motto—'Audax at fidelis', bold but faithful. May I record that one of the more traditional meanings of 'tryst' is being faithful in keeping an appointment—something I am very aware of in my new role, especially when the bells are rung!

In the late 1970s our family began our new life in a little country town called Texas on the Queensland border. That beginning in the country has ensured that I have always had a deep affinity for those who continue to keep our regional and rural communities strong and vibrant. Queensland's character is, I think, formed in no small measure by the fact that most of our population do not live in the capital city. There is a little bit of country Queensland in every electorate, and there certainly is in Sandgate, be it through me or the many others who now call Sandgate and the surrounds home. That little country primary school I attended had as its motto 'acta non verba'—actions, not words. These were powerful words to instil in a child and I am ever grateful they were. It is an attitude that has been deeply engrained into me and I intend to act for my constituents, my state and my country. It is also an extraordinary thought for me that my little school's motto resonates so strongly with this can-do government that I am so proud to be a member of.

I also want to note my sincerest thankyou to the party's administration and leadership—Mr Bruce Mclver, Mr Michael O'Dwyer, Mr James McGrath, Mr Barry O'Sullivan, Mr Gary Spence and so many others who have given us wholehearted enthusiastic support in Sandgate. I also want to take this moment to record that I will never forget the opportunity you have given me and, as I stated when my preselection was finalised, I cannot guarantee you an outcome but I will never let you down.

Thanks to Queensland's new Treasurer, the Hon. Tim Nicholls. Despite his many commitments, he always had time for our SEC and always found time in his busy schedule to simply phone me occasionally to see how I was. As a gesture of support this has been much appreciated, even though he probably thought I was running uphill backwards in what was considered to be a very safe, 52-year Labor seat.

To Dr Mark Robinson and Andrew Powell: I thank you for visiting during the campaign to show your support for our waterways so that our community and those who visit can continue to swim, fish and boat with the knowledge that this government is committed to environmental responsibility and clean, healthy waterways. To Senator Sue Boyce, the Hon. Vince Lester, Bill O'Chee, the Hon. Tracy Davis, the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek, Ray Stevens and many others who now sit on the government benches, I also extend my warmest thanks for taking the time to keep in touch with me during the campaign to offer your support, your encouragement and your mentorship.

I thank the Premier for demonstrating his commitment to the Sandgate electorate with his presence in the electorate and for making one of his first election promises to make our lives easier and, most importantly, safer by promising the Telegraph Road rail overpass. Almost last but by no means least, I thank those at the Sandgate SEC, especially those who for years and decades have dedicated a portion of their lives to make our electorate a coalition and/or conservative seat. My deepest thanks to you all for your support, enthusiasm, dedication and friendship. I would love to mention people specifically but there are so many and I am so afraid that I may offend if I forget a name, but you know who you are and I thank you.

Now on to my campaign team. First among equals in the team is Mrs Irene Lewis. Words can never describe our pairing, but our bond will be sealed forever. To Chris Mangan, Kerry Tupper, John Stopford, Marilyn Delporte, Sonya Gallery, Barry Keam, John Lennon, Darryl McNamara, Adriana Tulloh, Ray Tulloh, Nathaniel Tunney, Jade Harley-Riddell and Mark Yore: you really are the dream team and, with plenty of hard work and long hours, it really did happen—just like magic. It has been a privilege to work with everyone I have mentioned and those from my SEC, past and present, and the volunteers who offered support when we needed it most. Eighteen months ago, standing here seemed a remote dream, but with their drive and determination we acted and achieved and today is their celebration.

021 As I reflect on today, I realise that I have always had a deep desire to serve, to make a difference and to defend those who cannot defend themselves. The resolve to serve was instilled in me at a young age, which was probably due to the fact that I came from a long line of servicemen and women. When I was younger, I wanted to join the police force and I also wanted to join the Army Reserve, but owing to what was then considered not passing minimum requirements, both applications were over before they barely began. So, overcoming a natural shyness, I was determined that it was this place that could enable me to serve my community, to make a difference and to defend those who need defending.

The electorate that I represent is—as are all 89 electorates—special. As it is blessed with the wonderful Bramble Bay, it has been a haven and a destination for people of all walks and times of their lives. For me, Sandgate is home. It does not matter where I travel to in the world or around Australia, I always love coming home to my house and to the wide, open and beautiful spaces that the shore front of Sandgate, Shorncliffe and Brighton provides. With regards to how other people feel about living in the Sandgate electorate, we know that around 40 per cent of the people in the electorate were living somewhere else five years ago. We also know that over half of the population has not moved in the last

five years. People arrive at Deagon, Shorncliffe, Bracken Ridge, Fitzgibbon, Bald Hills, Brighton, Taigum and Sandgate and they tend to stay.

The electorate comprises many young families and many senior citizens. It has many sporting clubs and also many vibrant community and not-for-profit groups, many of which are filled with volunteers who are so vital in making these organisations successful. The electorate mostly has residences, but it also has some light industry and, in parts, some successful and some struggling businesses. It has people from all work sectors—professional, trade, and others—and plenty of operators of small, medium and large businesses, who do not necessarily have their businesses in the electorate but who choose to live there. The electorate has great schools, churches and fantastic festivals, the two largest being the Bluewater Festival, best known as the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race, and also the Einbunpin Festival, which celebrates our heritage, lagoons, wetlands, artists and the region as a whole.

We yield a community of passion and drive and people are rightly proud of where they call home. We also have our place in the history books, most recently being during World War II when the suburb of Brighton played an important role in hosting the RAAF air training school. The electorate has a mix of industry ranging from our brilliant prawn trawler operators to the Deagon thoroughbred training track, an automotive sector and a recent flurry of water sports operators to name a few. The electorate is also blessed to be protected by a dedicated team of front-line emergency services, being police, fire, ambulance and marine rescue.

Earlier this year, I committed to a number of specific goals and I can confirm my pledge again to deliver: the Telegraph Road rail overpass, the improvement of Cabbage Tree Creek's water quality, additional public transport options and the continued health and vibrancy of the local racing industry. There are many in the Sandgate electorate who need our support in defending their rights, freedoms and dignity. We have a large proportion of retirement and aged-care facilities. We have homeless people and we have those who are marginalised. We also have many people who are afflicted with disabilities. I pledge my support and energy to these very special members and facilities in our community.

This leads me to another group that is so often forgotten or undervalued. They provide such wonderful love and joy in our lives. They are our animals. I thank my dogs—my two most loyal supporters, Bunji and Pepper—for their energy and for the joy they brought to so many during the campaign out on the campaign trail. We should never forget the beneficial impact that our animals have on us. Small measures such as companion animals for the frail, the elderly or the handicapped can have a large beneficial impact on their quality of life. This effect is real and it is powerful and I hope that we can provide greater access to those in the electorate most in need.

On a professional level, there comes a time in an individual's life when one needs to make a stand. In a broader sense, I was driven to make my stand by a deep desire to support my industry, the metals and manufacturing sector. In my roles in the industry over the past two decades I have sadly witnessed the steady decline of manufacturing in this state. Some businesses have managed to find niches that give them a competitive advantage. But many have lost out in the reshaping of the Australian economy and our industrial landscape. The shrinking of the manufacturing industry has had a flow-on effect on not only associated or supporting industries but also the wider community. That is why the loss of manufacturing is always a big deal. It is seen as vitally important by communities as it employs thousands and it gives others a sense of purpose and prosperity. I am not so naive as to think there is a magic cure, but I am committed to working with industry to reverse decline where it is happening and to support growth where that is happening.

I have worked on many projects with many companies, large and small, and all around the state, including power stations, rail—be it wagon or passenger—hospitals, abattoirs, the agricultural sector, marine, sugar mills, the transport industry, bridges, commercial and sheet metal fit-out companies, mines, boilermakers, food processing companies, water treatment plants, and the list goes on. With all of these industry sectors, the mining industry and more, how did we go bust in a boom? But more importantly, how did the previous government allow it to happen? Until you have walked the walk and talked the talk and seen the strain and the tears on the faces of thousands of people, do not ever give me some weak, half-empty excuse that it is the government's responsibility to ensure that people, employment and industry are protected to the best they can be. I find it most ironic that the previous government, which was so famous for choking business and industry in an overabundance of red tape and regulation, could not even apply the simplest of practices and procedures to itself to save our state from going broke and into millions of dollars worth of debt.

For the moment I have put away my steel-capped boots and my high-vis shirt and have replaced them with what is deemed to be a more appropriate wardrobe for parliament. But I look forward to the day when I can get back into my old work attire of safety gear and start rebuilding Queensland—starting, hopefully, in my own electorate with the building of the Telegraph Road rail overpass.

The LNP promotes many ideals upon which my own beliefs and foundations are built. As I look around this 54th Parliament I see the LNP as the working person's party, as we are filled with such a

broad range of skills and occupations. Our diversity well represents so many sectors that will rebuild this state on so many levels, which encompasses our four pillars: resources, agriculture, tourism and construction. As part of those four pillars I am committed to increasing the level of our skill base and the availability of trades and apprenticeships. Our future is our youth and the manufacturing sector is a great way to develop our youth and to give them a reason for wanting to make Queensland and Australia the greatest place of opportunity in the world. This in turn makes us accountable to support small and medium-sized businesses and as a government we should always provide the encouragement and support networks to those who want to take those brave steps of venturing into the world of their own business and private enterprise. I will strive to make a measurable, beneficial difference to the manufacturing industry, which for so long has been kind to me, along with those who work within it, many of whom I have great admiration for as they often face diverse challenges simply to keep their businesses and staff in employment.

In drawing to a conclusion, I need to offer some special thanks. To my friends, especially those who I have known for more than half my life—Robyn, Rachel, Alison, Christine, Carla, Mel, Louise, Dan, Larissa—without their friendship life just would not be as fun. To those who ignited a political spark in me during my early 20s, Graeme and Yvonne Chapman, who have not only been successful business owners with their family's steel fabrication business and teaching me much about that world but also Yvonne was Queensland's first female cabinet minister and also served as mayoress of what was then Pine Rivers shire for some 14 years. Mr Fraser Stephens—later to become the chief of staff for Senator Trood—was many years before that also one of my customers from the manufacturing sector. I offer Graeme, Yvonne and Fraser my deepest thanks for their encouragement and for their enlightening political commentary over the years. To quote from the movie *The Iron Lady*, 'If you want to change it, then lead it', and although some may refer to me as an iron lady owing to my background in the metals manufacturing sector, I feel as though this quote represents my heartfelt thanks to those in the Sandgate electorate who voted for me and who put their faith in the LNP to lead this Queensland government.

I have always believed in being positive, having fun, working hard and staying true to oneself. These are my four pillars that I will represent the people of the Sandgate electorate with and I promise with every bone in my body that I will become the best representative that I can be. Perhaps there is no better guiding light for my time here than my high school motto, 'Esse Quam Videri'—to be, rather than to seem to be.

In conclusion, I acknowledge all my fellow LNP colleagues and the extraordinary discipline, focus and determination that they and their families displayed during the campaign. May we always remain accountable for our actions, never take our positions or electorates for granted, and may we always represent our constituents with the highest of integrity and without political prejudice. I would like to congratulate Madam Speaker on her new historic role and may God bless this 54th Parliament of Queensland as we, the LNP Newman government, strive to get Queensland back on track.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!


Debate, on motion of Mr Stevens, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

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## **~~PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS~~**

### **~~Australian Defence Force, Prime Minister's Visit~~**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government) (2.30 pm): I rise to talk about something near and dear to the heart of my electorate, and that is that we are a proud garrison city. Today I would like to highlight the member for Townsville who served his nation for three decades. It was a great honour for us to have the Prime Minister attend our city to farewell 350 service men and women to Afghanistan quite recently. She was unable to attend the welcome home parade later on in that afternoon for over 1,000 troops because she had to fly out to attend the NATO summit in Chicago. But her plane broke down—not unlike her leadership actually—and she was stuck at the airport. She subsequently told the residents of my city, including those service men and women, that she simply could not make it back to Strand Park for that farewell.

Today I can reveal that the plane did not depart the airport until after 2.30 pm. The welcome home parade commenced at 1 pm and was concluded over an hour before the plane departed. Can I remind members of this House just how important that moment was for my city. Can I remind members of the House that to go from the airport to Strand Park is a journey of 5.5 kilometres and would take approximately 10 minutes. What I am saying today is that what was displayed there was not just a lack of respect, it was again poor judgement from the Prime Minister. It is something we are seeing more and more of from this Prime Minister. Normally the poor judgement just relates to failed policies and backing people who may not otherwise deserve that support, but in this case it was a slap in the face for the men and women of the Australian defence force.