



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

### **Member for Ipswich**

Booval Professional Centre  
125 Brisbane Rd BOOVAL

PO Box 98  
BOOVAL Q 4304

Ph: 3202 3452  
Fax: 3202 4778

Email:  
ipswich@parliament.qld.gov.au

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### **IPSWICH ORGANISATIONS EMBRACE A NEW WAY WITH WORDS TO PORTRAY PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY**

Organisations throughout the Ipswich area now have a better understanding of the most appropriate words to use when portraying people with a disability, following a free public forum today.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan officially opened the *Way With Words* forum on behalf of Minister for Disability Services Warren Pitt.

The forum is a presentation initiated by local community groups Alara and Focal Extended, and supported by University of Queensland Ipswich Campus, Ipswich City Council and Disability Services Queensland.

“It is enormously pleasing to see local media, community, government and business organisations all working together to improve the quality of life for people with a disability,” Ms Nolan said.

“Our everyday choice of language is a crucial part of the process of encouraging more welcoming and inclusive communities — communities where people with a disability can participate in all aspects of community life.

“Many people may remember how upsetting school yard name calling was, and using the wrong word to describe a person with a disability, can be just as upsetting.

“Inappropriate words also tend to focus on the particular disability the person has, rather than on the person as an individual.

“Disability Services Queensland has produced a magnificent publication called *A Way With Words* which makes it easier to word things more appropriately, and understand the reasons why it is important to communicate effectively.

“I look forward to more positive portrayals of people with a disability, and more welcoming and inclusive local community as a result of this forum,” Ms Nolan said.

To download a copy of the *A Way With Words* publication, visit:

[www.disability.qld.gov.au](http://www.disability.qld.gov.au) or the Disability Information and Awareness Line: **Freecall 1800 177 120** or **TTY 1800 010 222**