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MARK RYAN MP **STATE MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Caboolture Murri Court Representatives Recognised

Eight Indigenous elders and respected persons from Caboolture have been acknowledged for their hard work and dedication to the Murri Courts of Queensland.

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General Paul Lucas today joined State Member for Morayfield, Mark Ryan MP to present them with ceremonial sashes of office.

"These elders and respected persons play a major role in the operation of the Caboolture Murri Court and their hours of volunteer work does not go unnoticed," Mr Lucas said.

"The 17 Murri Courts in Queensland rely on the support of magistrates, the local community justice group, the elders and the other respected members of the Indigenous community.

"I'm very pleased to present sashes that represent a 'badge of office' to the local elders and respected persons as a small token of the State Government's appreciation of their contribution and standing within the court."

State Member for Pumicestone, Carryn Sullivan MP said the local volunteers help the courts consider cultural significance.

"Elders and respected persons sit with Magistrates to provide them with culturally-appropriate advice, ensuring the court process has an added cultural significance," Mrs Sullivan said.

"This culturally-based approach leads to better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in our community."

Mr Ryan said it was a vital link between the courts and Indigenous communities.

"The Murri Court provides responsive justice outcomes which focus on rehabilitation, reintegration and implementation of prevention strategies for Indigenous offenders," Mr Ryan said.

Mr Lucas said the willingness of volunteers makes Murri Court a reality.

"I would like to sincerely thank everyone who gives up their time, skills and energies to help with the operation of Murri Court in Caboolture," he said.

Murri Court Sashes of Office recipients – Caboolture: Aunty Kathy Brown, Uncle Frank Brown, Aunty Marj Grant, Aunty Corrine Martin, Aunty Ruth Ross, Uncle Des McArthur, Ms Debbie Jackson, Uncle Dale Lee.

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