



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Community Recognition Statement

20 October 2020

KATHY SIMKUS

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) :

Since the age of 15, Kathy Simkus has lived with Multiple Sclerosis. For the last 30 years she has required the use of a wheel chair. Don't think this has slowed her down though.

Kathy is a trained early learning teacher and has spent the last 30 years volunteering at Elermore Vale Public School, assisting students with reading programs for three days a week. She also carried the Olympic torch through Wallsend in 2000.

Kathy recently received a NSW Department of Education, Executive Director's Excellence Award, SASS and Community Awards 2020, for her dedication to the School and its students. Along with assisting students with reading, she involves herself with events within the School, such as Book Week, Easter hat parades and the school musical.

Students across the School are always excited to go to Kathy to read due to her consistent encouragement, strategies to improve reading techniques and building self-belief. Students always leave the session feeling good about themselves.

The COVID-19 pandemic has unfortunately hit pause on Kathy assisting at the School and I know she is missing the children terribly.

Congratulations, Kathy, and thank you for all the work that you do.