



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Community Recognition Statement

23 February 2022

PAM COMERFORD OAM

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) :

Every Australia Day, ordinary individuals are recognised for their extraordinary achievements and commitment to the broader community.

In this year's Australia Day Honours, Pamela Comerford, the co-founder of Hunter Brain Injury Respite Options Inc, now known as I Am Here, was awarded an OAM.

This award is a recognition of Pam's 30 year journey of self-sacrifice and fierce determination to create a place that gives people who have experienced the trauma of an Acquired Brain Injury and their carers a real break and an opportunity to rejuvenate.

Her journey was inspired by the catastrophic brain injury suffered by her son Jason, now 52 years old, following a rugby league accident just prior to his 18th birthday.

I was lucky enough to work with Pam at I Am Here, prior to entering Parliament. During that time I witnessed Pam's advocacy and determination for those with a disability.

Pam's character and courage are embedded in the guiding principles on which I Am Here is built. This is her legacy.

Congratulations Pam on this well-deserved recognition.