



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**Community Recognition Statements**

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30 July 2019

Mary Blackford, OAM

**Ms SONIA HORNERY ( Wallsend ) ( 13:20 ):**

Mary Blackford's contribution to our community is no secret. After her children left home Mary began volunteering. She saw a great need for a home visiting service.

With the help of the Hunter Volunteers Centre and a dedicated board of committee members Mary founded Wallsend Carers, an organisation that has provided companionship to hundreds of elderly people in the area since 1984.

Mary worked as the coordinator up until last year when she retired at the age of 85. Mary has received several much-deserved awards and many blessings from her work. She still visits her clients as friends. I congratulate Mary on receiving her well-deserved Medal of the Order of Australia and thank her for her tireless work.

Mary is a Wallsend giver. Bless her.