



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

**Community Recognition Statement**

10 February 2021

**GRACE TAME  
AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR 2021**

**Ms SONIA HORNER ( Wallsend ) :**

Grace Tame is a Survivor. A fighter. An advocate. An inspiration.

Grace was 15 when she was groomed and sexually abused. Her trust was betrayed by someone who was supposed to look out for her.

For years, Grace was unable to speak out about the assault publicly. Unable to fight and advocate for herself. Tasmania's outdated gag laws prevented her from telling her own story.

In 2019 Grace was the first woman in Tasmania to be granted special leave from the Supreme Court to speak publicly about her abuse. Whilst fighting her own private battle, Grace was working with anti-sexual assault advocate and journalist, Nina Funnell. The #letherspeak campaign was created and an online petition calling for Section 194K of the Evidence Act be scrapped.

This year, Grace was named Australian of the year for her advocacy for survivors of sexual assault. She is the first Tasmanian to have received this award.

To receive an Australian of the Year award is an incredible honour and is richly deserved. Grace accepted her award with an incredible speech, stating to all survivors of child sexual abuse "this is for us".

Thank you Grace.