



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Community Recognition Statement

12 November 2021

SISTER BETTY BROWN RSJ

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) :

Every day, all over the world, men, women and children make one of the most difficult decisions in their lives – to leave their homes in search of a safer, better life.

Some might leave for employment or education, but many others are forced to leave due to persecution, torture, violence, war, hunger and extreme poverty.

Penola House, which was established in 2007, offered welcome, support and education for refugees and their families.

Sister Betty Brown rsj was instrumental in establishing this dynamic outreach to refugees around the Hunter, along with her dear friend, Sister Diana Santleben.

Sister Betty was a role model to all involved in refugee resettlement.

After leaving Penola House in 2015, Sister Betty assisted Sister Diana to establish Zara's House, a wonderful and unique local service for refugee women and children.

Sister Betty recently celebrated her 90th Birthday, with a lifetime of dedication to the welfare of others.

Through her work, Sister Betty saved lives and brought families together.

Happy Birthday, Sister Betty, and thank you for all that you have done to assist refugees over many years.