



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

**Community Recognition Statement**

17 February 2021

**FRIENDS WITH DIGNITY BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE**

**Ms SONIA HORNER ( Wallsend ) :**

When the local community gets an idea in their head, I am always willing to help out however I can.

In January, local parents contacted me to see if my office could be a drop off point for a 'back to school drive'.

This involved getting the word out, asking parents who could afford it to buy some extra back to school items to be donated to those who are not in a position to buy all that is necessary.

I spoke with Friends with Dignity who were more than happy for my office to be a drop off point.

Friends with Dignity is a volunteer based not-for-profit registered charity that provides practical programs to assist survivors of domestic violence in collaboration with refuge and crisis centres.

The word went out and the community delivered in spades. In just 8 days 213 filled backpacks, pairs of school shoes, uniforms and donations were dropped off to my office, filling my conference room to overflowing.

Thank you to Catherine and her daughter Mia, who made a number of trips to the office to collect all of the bags to be distributed amongst the community.