



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENT

58TH PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

WESTFIELD LOCAL HERO FINALISTS

19 October 2023

Mr Speaker I would like to rise to congratulate the finalists for the Westfield Local Hero award Michelle Mott from Be Centre Foundation and Vanessa Karakas from Women and Children First. Michelle Mott gives hours every week to help Northern Beaches parents make positive changes for their children. As a volunteer Parent Counsellor at the Be Centre Foundation, Michelle provides one-on-one counselling to parents whose children attend play therapy. She provides an emotionally safe place for parents to learn how to improve their home environment. Vanessa Karakas is a Caseworker at Women & Children First, where she goes beyond the call of duty to support Northern Beaches survivors of domestic violence. She always caring and calm when women are most vulnerable, helping them to transition from surviving to thriving. Both organisations that these finalists represent will each receive \$5,000 dollars this will go a long way in their work to make our a community a better place. I again thank and congratulate Michelle and Vanessa for all the fantastic work that they do.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Griffin'.

JAMES GRIFFIN MP
MEMBER FOR MANLY