



Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Member for Inala

Media Release

**Minister for Disability Services
and Multicultural Affairs**

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Brisbane disability champion honoured at state awards

Brisbane's Petra Svab has been honoured for improving the quality of life for people with a disability at a disability action awards ceremony in Brisbane today.

Disability Services Minister Anastacia Palaszczuk today presented Petra with the Individual Disability Services Award at Queensland's Disability Action Week Awards 2009 for her work with the deaf community and people with mobility issues.

Ms Palaszczuk said the awards acknowledged individuals and organisations who were making a real difference for Queenslanders with a disability, their families and carers.

"Petra Svab is an inspiration to all Queenslanders," Ms Palaszczuk said.

"Petra was born profoundly deaf to migrant parents, and in 1996 was in a car accident that resulted in paraplegia.

"Throughout her career, Petra has demonstrated her commitment to ensuring equal access for people with a disability, such as in her work at Deaf Services Queensland and in her voluntary advocacy roles over many years for the deaf community and those who use wheelchairs.

"Petra is also playing a major role in organising the 2009 World Congress on Deafness and Mental Health which will be held in Brisbane on 28 to 30 October.

"Petra's self-determination, positive outlook and independence inspire all she comes into contact with and she is a worthy role model for people with or without a disability."

Ms Palaszczuk said 12 individuals and organisations from across Queensland were presented with awards in six categories at this year's ceremony.

"Today we acknowledge people who have made a significant contribution to people with a disability living in communities across Queensland," Ms Palaszczuk said.

"We're also recognising and valuing the efforts of organisations that are making a difference for people with a disability and their families and carers in sectors such as education, private enterprise and Government.

"The Awards are a highlight of Disability Action Week, which continues until Saturday 19 September.

"Disability Action Week helps to create greater awareness about the challenges faced by people with a disability everyday, as well as the positive achievements and contribution people with a disability make in enriching their communities and Queensland."

For more information on how Disability Services Queensland is making a difference for people with a disability visit: www.disability.qld.gov.au

Media contact: 3237 1145