

It may not surprise you to learn that in my electorate of Fairfax there are many men and women who are far better human beings than I. I rise today to pay credit to a few who have been acknowledged through this year's Queen's Birthday honours. In particular, Pastor Dale Dowler received a Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to the community. Dale and his wife, Donna, created the Shack, which provides service to our community's most vulnerable. To him it is not a profession but a vocation of life that he lives every single day. Then there's Rod Forrester, who also received a Medal of the Order of Australia. Rod has created a legacy you might expect from 100 people, not just one. He is a giant. Indeed, his intellect is matched by such a deep humility, and that's what sets him apart. Then there is Detective Senior Sergeant Daren Edwards, who was awarded an Australian Police Medal after 35 years of distinguished service. Our community is safer because Daren is in charge. Finally, Marie Mahon was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to dance as a teacher and a person who has really led in the field. Each and every one of these people contribute to society not because they want a gong but because they give of themselves. I say congratulations to them.