Hansard

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

60th Parliament

Tuesday 22 September 2026

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

Office-holders of the Legislative Assembly

60th Parliament

Speaker

Maree Edwards

Deputy Speaker

Matt Fregon

Acting Speakers

Juliana Addison, Martin Cameron, Jordan Crugnale, Daniela De Martino, Wayne Farnham, Lauren Kathage, Nathan Lambert, Paul Mercurio, Kim O'Keeffe, Meng Heang Tak and Iwan Walters

Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Premier

Ben Carroll (from 28 July 2026)

Jacinta Allan (from 27 September 2023 to 28 July 2026)

Daniel Andrews (to 27 September 2023)

Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Deputy Premier

Gabrielle Williams (from 28 July 2026)

Ben Carroll (from 28 September 2023 to 28 July 2026)

Jacinta Allan (to 27 September 2023)

Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition

Jess Wilson (from 18 November 2025)

Brad Battin (from 27 December 2024 to 18 November 2025)

John Pesutto (to 27 December 2024)

Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Deputy Leader of the Opposition

David Southwick (from 28 January 2026)

Sam Groth (from 27 December 2024 to 28 January 2026)

David Southwick (to 27 December 2024)

Leader of the Nationals

Danny O'Brien (from 26 November 2024)

Peter Walsh (to 26 November 2024)

Deputy Leader of the Nationals

Emma Kealy

Leader of the House

Anthony Carbines (from 15 April 2026)

Mary-Anne Thomas (to 15 April 2026)

Manager of Opposition Business

James Newbury (from 13 October 2025)

Bridget Vallence (from 7 January 2025 to 13 October 2025)

James Newbury (to 7 January 2025)

Members of the Legislative Assembly

60th Parliament

Member	District	Party	Member	District	Party
Addison, Juliana	Wendouree	ALP	Maas, Gary	Narre Warren South	ALP
Allan, Jacinta	Bendigo East	ALP	McCurdy, Tim	Ovens Valley	Nat
Andrews, Daniel[1]	Mulgrave	ALP	McGhie, Steve	Melton	ALP
Battin, Brad	Berwick	Lib	McLeish, Cindy	Eildon	Lib
Benham, Jade	Mildura	Nat	Marchant, Alison	Bellarine	ALP
Britnell, Roma	South-West Coast	Lib	Marsh, Anthony[9]	Nepean	Lib
Brooks, Colin	Bundoora	ALP	Matthews-Ward, Kathleen	Broadmeadows	ALP
Bull, Josh	Sunbury	ALP	Mercurio, Paul	Hastings	ALP
Bull, Tim	Gippsland East	Nat	Mullahy, John	Glen Waverley	ALP
Cameron, Martin	Morwell	Nat	Newbury, James	Brighton	Lib
Carbines, Anthony	Ivanhoe	ALP	O'Brien, Danny	Gippsland South	Nat
Carroll, Ben	Niddrie	ALP	O'Brien, Michael	Malvern	Lib
Cheeseman, Darren[2]	South Barwon	Ind	O'Keeffe, Kim	Shepparton	Nat
Cianflone, Anthony	Pascoe Vale	ALP	Pallas, Tim[10]	Werribee	ALP
Cleeland, Annabelle	Euroa	Nat	Pearson, Danny	Essendon	ALP
Connolly, Sarah	Laverton	ALP	Pesutto, John	Hawthorn	Lib
Couzens, Christine	Geelong	ALP	Read, Tim[11]	Brunswick	Greens
Crewther, Chris	Mornington	Lib	Richards, Pauline	Cranbourne	ALP
Crugnale, Jordan	Bass	ALP	Richardson, Tim	Mordialloc	ALP
D'Ambrosio, Liliana	Mill Park	ALP	Riordan, Richard	Polwarth	Lib
De Martino, Daniela	Monbulk	ALP	Rowswell, Brad	Sandringham	Lib
de Vietri, Gabrielle	Richmond	Greens	Sandell, Ellen	Melbourne	Greens
Dimopoulos, Steve	Oakleigh	ALP	Settle, Michaela	Eureka	ALP
Edbrooke, Paul	Frankston	ALP	Smith, Ryan[12]	Warrandyte	Lib
Edwards, Maree	Bendigo West	ALP	Southwick, David	Caulfield	Lib
Farnham, Wayne	Narracan	Lib	Spence, Ros	Kalkallo	ALP
Foster, Eden[3]	Mulgrave	ALP	Staikos, Nick	Bentleigh	ALP
Fowles, Will[4]	Ringwood	Ind	Suleyman, Natalie	St Albans	ALP
Fregon, Matt	Ashwood	ALP	Tak, Meng Heang	Clarinda	ALP
George, Ella	Lara	ALP	Taylor, Jackson	Bayswater	ALP
Grigorovitch, Luba	Kororoit	ALP	Taylor, Nina	Albert Park	ALP
Groth, Sam[5]	Nepean	Lib	Theophanous, Kat	Northcote	ALP
Guy, Matthew	Bulleen	Lib	Thomas, Mary-Anne	Macedon	ALP
Halfpenny, Bronwyn	Thomastown	ALP	Tilley, Bill	Benambra	Lib
Hall, Katie	Footscray	ALP	Vallence, Bridget	Evelyn	Lib
Hamer, Paul	Box Hill	ALP	Vulin, Emma	Pakenham	ALP
Haylett, Martha	Ripon	ALP	Walsh, Peter	Murray Plains	Nat
Hibbins, Sam[6, 7]	Prahran	Ind	Walters, Iwan	Greenvale	ALP
Hilakari, Mathew	Point Cook	ALP	Ward, Vicki	Eltham	ALP
Hodgett, David	Croydon	Lib	Wells, Kim	Rowville	Lib
Horne, Melissa	Williamstown	ALP	Werner, Nicole[13]	Warrandyte	Lib
Hutchins, Natalie	Sydenham	ALP	Westaway, Rachel[14]	Prahran	Lib
Kathage, Lauren	Yan Yean	ALP	Wight, Dylan	Tarneit	ALP
Kealy, Emma	Lowan	Nat	Williams, Gabrielle	Dandenong	ALP
Kilkenny, Sonya	Carrum	ALP	Wilson, Belinda	Narre Warren North	ALP
Lambert, Nathan	Preston	ALP	Wilson, Jess	Kew	Lib
Lister, John[8]	Werribee	ALP			

[1] Resigned 27 September 2023
[2] ALP until 29 April 2024
[3] Sworn in 6 February 2024
[4] ALP until 5 August 2023
[5] Resigned 13 February 2026
[6] Greens until 1 November 2024
[7] Resigned 23 November 2024
[8] Sworn in 4 March 2025
[9] Sworn in 2 June 2026
[10] Resigned 6 January 2025
[11] Died 19 September 2026
[12] Resigned 7 July 2023
[13] Sworn in 3 October 2023
[14] Sworn in 4 March 2025

Party abbreviations

ALP – Australian Labor Party, Greens – Australian Greens,
Ind – Independent, Lib – Liberal Party of Australia, Nat – National Party of Australia

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CONDOLENCES
Dr Tim Read MP 3953

Tuesday 22 September 2026

The SPEAKER (Maree Edwards) took the chair at 12:04 pm, read the prayer and made an Acknowledgement of Country.

Condolences

Dr Tim Read MP

Ben CARROLL (Niddrie – Premier) (12:05): I move:

> That this house expresses its sincere sorrow at the death of Dr Tim Read and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as member of the Legislative Assembly for the district of Brunswick from 2018 to 2026.

I offer my sincere condolences to the friends, family and colleagues of the member for Brunswick Dr Tim Read, especially his partner Angela and his children Martin and Louisa. It is hard to believe that tomorrow it will be eight weeks to the day since Tim delivered his valedictory speech. Words can be cheap in politics, but Tim's speech was priceless, as was his inaugural speech in 2018. He spoke of his political passions, from reconciliation to generational injustice, climate change, integrity, public health and democracy. He spoke of his work as a doctor and scientist, he spoke about how he wanted to put smiles on the faces of those he loved and he spoke of the future. The logic and humanity behind each point he made was unmissable. What struck me most, though, was how much Tim focused on the importance of democracy, because like so many of us, the longer he was here, the more he came to love and respect the work of the Victorian Parliament.

With that in mind I encourage everyone to look around and look up. We are gathered together in the room that was the home of the federal government for more than a quarter of a century. Some of the best and a few of the worst moments of Australian history have played out beneath this gold leaf ceiling, the same gold leaf that Tim himself mentioned in his valedictory speech. The White Australia policy was born here. Australian women were granted the right to vote here. The High Court, the Australian Defence Force, the minimum wage and the pension were all established here. Compulsory and preferential voting, those two great bulwarks against populism, were also made law here, and just last year the historic Statewide Treaty passed through this house with the support of the member for Brunswick. I mention those lateral connections because they are the kinds of associations that an intelligent, curious and thoroughly decent person like Dr Tim Read would make. You see, Tim had perspective. He knew we were all privileged to work in a place with so much history and currency, a place that is as much about the future of Victoria as it is to do with Victoria's past. As the member for Brunswick said on 29 July:

> Despite the theatrics, most of us are here for the right reasons. We all want good outcomes for Victorians … for me, politics is the work you do to improve people's circumstances, not just now but in the future. Politics is hope in motion.

'Politics is hope in motion' is what Dr Tim Read said. These are wise words, words that deserve to be carved out into the floor of the vestibule alongside the mosaic that reads:

> Where no counsel is the people fall but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

In fact those words should also serve as a warning against those who seek to use hate and fear to divide and conquer our democracy. That is why I believe political parties of all stripes could do worse than ensure the candidates for election to this place have some semblance of the intelligence, curiosity and decency that resided in the member for Brunswick. I spoke to Tim last Wednesday, shortly before he died. We talked about a range of subjects that we shared common ground on: integrity in public life and the need for reform. On prisons, Tim was very firmly of the view that we should treat Victorians as Nelson Mandela once said every society should treat its people: by making sure that all our people, no matter where they are or where they have come from, share dignity.

He was very clear, and touched, that we made some really good reform together. With the member for Footscray and the late Sarah Carter, we turned the Maribyrnong detention centre into housing for men leaving prison who had no home to go to. Because Tim really did believe in evidence-based policy, he knew that if you improve the protective factors and take away the risk factors everyone can get a real good shot at life and live a life of purpose. I know today it has been six years since we opened the former detention centre in Maribyrnong as a new residential wraparound service for men. Not one of those individuals, in Tim's words, has recidivated and gone back into prison. These are the reforms that Tim was very proud to be part of.

He was also very keen, and he once reminded me that more people ride a bike to work from Brunswick than any other part of Australia. When I became the public transport minister, he came to see me about the 505 bus and how since Labor did the Commonwealth Games some 2000 residents had come to call Parkville home but only had a bus service that operated once an hour. I got to change that for Tim. With his advocacy, we provided 216 services a week, giving them the 20-minute city that they deserve.

He was also passionate about climate action. He knew, and he reinforced it to me just the other day, that we cannot mistake it for a future threat and must do everything we can for future generations.

He was very proud to get behind the Amy Gillett Foundation and the A Metre Matters campaign, and to do that with colleagues on this side of the chamber was something I know he was very proud of as well. In fact if you get the chance, you should look at the Amy Gillett Foundation's tribute. In particular Lisa Jacobs put a beautiful photo of Tim rescuing a baby who fell off a stage at one of the active transport events in Brunswick, and it is very much Tim: a beautiful photo of him smiling and taking everything in his calm nature.

Tim was an impressive person. He remained positive and optimistic and never stopped advocating for action on causes he believed in, and we are this week promoting a lot of the work that Tim advocated for, particularly around IBAC. He was very clear to me: 'Ben, lift the rock and the worms come out.' I suspect that is why Tim made the difference he did. He never stopped advocating for action he believed in. It was always evidence based, and he had a unique way of getting his point across. He will be missed. He made a huge difference to the people of Brunswick, this chamber and the world more broadly. Vale, Dr Tim Read.

Ellen SANDELL (Melbourne) (12:12): As I stand here, I wonder what Tim would make of all of us spending all of this time on him. He was not one for fanfare, and I think he would be pretty alarmed, to be honest, at all the fuss. He would have much preferred that we spent today in Parliament debating something useful, like why Victoria is still burning coal or why we still do not have bike lanes on Sydney Road. But I know that he was also deeply touched by the outpouring of love and well wishes that he received in his final weeks. My phone certainly buzzed off the hook on Saturday with calls from MPs across the spectrum after the news of his death became public. I want to thank you all sincerely for taking the time to reach out and share your memories of Tim. It was a great comfort to know that others respected and loved him as we did. I know some of you will know what it is like to lose a colleague in office. I remember the grief in the corridors when Fiona Richardson and Jane Garrett passed away, and I have a new appreciation of how hard that was.

I first met Tim back in 2014 when we both first ran for Parliament at the state election. I did not know much about him, but my sister-in-law worked as a nurse at the infectious diseases clinic at the Royal Melbourne Hospital where Tim also worked, mostly with people facing HIV, TB and other illnesses. She assured me he was a really good guy and someone who was always smiling, and she sure got that right. His professional background alone is impressive: his work as a GP in community health centres, one of which is in Collingwood – and I acknowledge the work of the member for Richmond in securing funding for them this week; his specialisation of research in sexual health; his PhD in epidemiology – boy, did that come in handy during COVID; and his appointment as medical coordinator of the HIV clinic at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. He published more than 60 peer-reviewed scientific papers on topics such as HPV; HIV prevention and treatment, including rapid

testing; and antibiotic-resistant infections. His work in HIV was particularly well respected. He knew that the fight against HIV was a fight against stigma as much as it was a fight against disease. I still cannot go to a hospital or a medical research institute in my own electorate without someone telling me how transformative his work is and wanting to pass on their best regards to Dr Tim.

But what most of us remember about Tim are not his accolades but his character. There are not many politicians in this place who get a knock on the door late at night from MPs right across the political spectrum. Tim did. Late at night when Parliament was sitting you would often find MPs from all sides of politics creeping down to the Greens corridor, looking very lost, for a chat with Dr Tim. Usually, honestly, it was about a medical issue. Sometimes it was about a policy issue, or sometimes it was just for a chat. I am probably getting him in trouble – I am kind of glad he is not here – because I do not actually think you are supposed to give out free medical advice in parliamentary corridors. He might have lost his licence. But the thing is, if he minded doing this work for free, he never let it show, because he never let politics get in the way of just being a human with people.

Usually people are well liked because they do not rattle the cage. Tim, however, never shied away from speaking truth to power yet somehow was still the most well liked MP in this place. I once asked Tim what his secret was. He just shrugged and said he did not know but that he just believed there was something fundamentally good inside every single person, although if I am being honest, given the subtle side eye he would give me sometimes when MPs were speaking in the chamber, I reckon he believed that goodness existed in some people just a little bit more than in others. This belief in the goodness of people meant that he was somehow able to keep a ferocious commitment to evidence and truth while also not pissing too many people off – not an easy thing to do. Before he entered Parliament Tim was briefly arrested for being part of a group that spray-painted cigarette billboards with health messages. It is one of my favourite stories about Tim because it encapsulates the way that he approached his politics: willing to stick it to the man but only in an evidence-based, reasonable way – sticking it to the man with peer-reviewed and well-informed health messages.

While he cared about and advocated for a range of issues, we both entered Parliament with one issue as our driving motivation: to deal with climate change. We both came from science backgrounds, and we both could not read the science of climate change without feeling the deep intergenerational injustice of it and a deep and abiding responsibility to do everything in our power to change things, to avert the worst impacts and to ensure that our state, our country and our world were habitable for the next generation. But while some people might read the science of climate change and want to crawl into a hole, Tim's slogan was 'Don't get mad, get elected'. And thank God he did get elected, because Tim had that rare gift: he could look at any messy political issue and somehow go straight to the moral question sitting right at the heart of it. He was just so good at cutting through the nonsense.

It is why he was so good at working across party lines during COVID. Thank goodness we had an infectious diseases researcher in Parliament and in our party room at that time, working quietly behind the scenes with the government, supporting health workers and helping the public navigate tumultuous times. He was such a good doctor that I remember a health minister once said that her plan to fix the Victorian health system was for Labor to win back Brunswick so Dr Tim could go back to practising medicine. Unfortunately for the minister and the Victorian health system, there was fat chance of that happening, because the people of Brunswick would not give him up for anything, and he was returned at the 2022 election with a thumping 63 per cent of the 2PP vote.

Tim's commitment to truth is also why he spoke up for the Palestinian people early on, when plenty of others were still working out where to stand, and why he never stopped reminding us and the Parliament and the government and any minister or anyone who would listen how many tonnes of coal we are still burning every day in Victoria and about the need to stop it.

Tim's ability to work across party lines was perhaps most visible in his work as the chair of the Integrity and Oversight Committee (IOC). In 2023 some tricky negotiations and manoeuvring led to the government having to give up the chair of this important committee, one that is supposed to oversee

the bodies that hold the government of the day to account. Once the Liberals agreed to this, they might have regretted their decision when the committee decided to give the chair role not to them but to a Green. Labor also perhaps regretted that decision when everyone realised they had elected an incorruptible chair that was far beyond measure and held all sides to account regardless of their party. One of the kindest messages I received in the last few days was from former health minister Jill Hennessy. She said:

> He made us want to be better in our contributions and our behaviours.

Tim's achievements are too many to mention, but I will mention a bunch of them because a lot of what he has achieved has gone under the radar. Often his effectiveness was years in the making. He would quietly identify an issue, work on it and bring stakeholders together, and it often was not until years later that the fruits of this labour would be realised with real policy change. A statewide plan to wipe out congenital syphilis and HIV was one of these – I would know nothing about congenital syphilis if it was not for Dr Tim in my ear every week about it – as was opening up ministerial diaries to public scrutiny. Finally letting gay men give blood was another of his achievements, as well as a state tobacco licensing scheme. If we were to look back over *Hansard*, I would bet a lot of money that Tim was the first to raise all of these issues in Parliament. I am so pleased that two of the issues he worked hardest on he lived to see change. Those are IBAC reform – fixing and expanding the powers of our anti-corruption watchdog, which he led the landmark inquiry into as IOC chair – and getting rid of dodgy group voting tickets and preference whispering both at a state level and in the City of Melbourne, ensuring that in Victoria you can no longer circumvent our democracy and buy a seat in the upper house. None of these reforms will have Tim's name on them officially, but his fingerprints are all over them.

Tim had a humility and an integrity that, let us be frank, are not always found in a politician. He just about had the least ego of anyone in this place. We in the Greens were lucky to see that integrity up close every day. When he was first elected in fact he learned that there was a pay cycle where he was getting paid by both the hospital he worked for and the Parliament, and he simply would not stand for it. We witnessed him go through a comedic bureaucratic nightmare to try and avoid getting doubly paid, and I have never seen someone work so hard to not get paid.

But if you really want to know Tim, do not look at legislation, look at Brunswick. You could not find a man on earth who is more Brunswick than Dr Tim – a bike-riding, Italian-speaking, veggie-growing, climate activist doctor rolling up on his bike to a protest in a hi-vis vest with a huge grin on his face. You cannot get more Brunswick than that. Tim was just as happy chatting with the nonnas on his street as with the young artists that he commissioned to paint bike-themed street art murals on empty Brunswick walls. He also knew that to be a good MP you had to care not just about the big picture issues but just as much about the divot in the footpath or the broken school fence. I remember that when Tim started as a lower house MP he admitted that he took a little while to understand what his job was. He was a little perplexed by the political games, question time and the 24-hour media cycle, and he wondered if any of it was really very meaningful at all. But one day he turned to me and said, 'Ellen, I actually know what my job is now. If three people email me about dog poo on the footpath, it's my job to do something about the dog poo on the footpath.' He became one of the most beloved local MPs you could get. As many people have remarked in the last few days, you could not go doorknocking in Brunswick without someone telling you about how Tim helped them out.

Tim also inspired a fierce loyalty in his staff, particularly his young staff. He had an uncanny ability, as a boomer, to connect with young people and to learn from them, mentoring so many young people across politics and medicine. Tim often said that his motto in work was 'Listen more than you speak'. I think so many of us could take heed of that advice, me included. That rare ability to listen deeply to everyone, regardless of their age or their power or their status, as well as the ability to keep an open mind and move with the times when needed was part of what gave him his energy and his spark and made him such a remarkable human.

On a personal note, Tim was an incredible confidant and a support to me through some tricky times, from COVID hard lockdowns, when politics as usual was completely disrupted and we were all left figuring out how to support our communities and navigate complex and very consequential public health legislation, right through to the saga with Sam Hibbins, when Tim was a huge support to me and our broader team.

After the 2018 election, when the group voting system saw the Greens lose half our party room, we had to stick together as a small team, and Tim was the best colleague we could have hoped for, providing unwavering solidarity and clarity through it all. And I know he is beloved in this building as well. One former minister sent me a message that said he was a political conscience one felt scared to be measured against because deep down you always knew that what he said was right.

Tim's humility and clarity were also evident in the way he handled his illness, not using it for sympathy but to gently put a spotlight on the issues he cared about. He would not want me to miss this opportunity to reiterate the policy issues he raised in his valedictory speech that are still outstanding: for the government to abandon their plan to destroy VicHealth, to introduce rent caps and to stop burning coal. It is very fitting that this week we are likely to see the IBAC reforms he championed passed through the Parliament, and he would be incredibly dismayed by the backwards steps on renewable energy infrastructure we have seen from both major parties.

Tim, despite his illness, continued his work right to the very end, always with grace, always on a bike, always with a smile, and it was a privilege to be able to share this journey with him. His family have shown incredible strength and grace through it all. Not many people know, but his wife Ange has also given so much to our Greens movement. Most Brunswick campaigns over the years would simply not have happened without her excellent organising skills. His children Martin and Louisa were the light of his life. He often regaled us at dinner with stories of kayaking down the Franklin with Martin or facing Louisa's blistering cricket balls. These were the moments he cherished the most. His sisters and their families were also a great source of love and joy. Tim's family will always be part of the extended Greens family. He was the best of us, and in a lifetime not many Tim Reads come around. We are devastated by the loss but feel so fortunate to have worked with him, to have loved him and to have had him as part of our family. We will miss you, our brilliant friend.

Jess WILSON (Kew – Leader of the Opposition) (12:27): It is with immense sadness that I rise to support the condolence motion for Dr Tim Read. Tim was a thoroughly decent human. He was a man of conviction. He brought sincerity, compassion and a very strong sense of public duty to his work. That deep sense of public duty was evident long before he entered this place as the member for Brunswick in 2018 because he was of course a doctor first, caring for his patients in general practice. Tim also contributed to the greater body of medical science through his PhD and incredible research work in HIV prevention and treatment. That is hard, unglamorous work that saves lives quietly, and it tells you a lot about the man that Tim was.

When he arrived in this place he became someone who was respected and liked universally across the Parliament. His commitment to integrity in public life was unwavering. Through his leadership of Parliament's Integrity and Oversight Committee and his advocacy for stronger anti-corruption laws, Tim worked to ensure those entrusted with power are held accountable for the exercise of that power. Tim and I shared the beliefs that Victorians deserve honest government and strong, independent integrity agencies, and his principled pursuit of those goals will be an enduring part of his legacy. Parliament often requires negotiation and compromise, and I always enjoyed working with Tim. He was an honest broker, someone who listened, engaged in good faith and approached every discussion with respect and integrity.

Tim showed uncommon strength and courage in his final year with us in this place. When Tim shared with us his diagnosis in January, he did so with frankness and immense bravery, given his medical background meant he knew the road that lay ahead for him. At that time he could have stepped back from public life, but instead he spent his final months in this place doing what he had always done:

fighting for what he believed in, speaking up for public health and asking the hard questions in question time.

I have noticed that on occasions such as this we often feel the need to qualify our remarks to make reference to our political differences. We say things like 'While we disagreed on many things, he was still a good man.' I think Tim would argue that this qualification is not necessary. We are all in this place because we have a deep and abiding commitment to the ability of public policy to make life better for the people of Victoria. None knew this better than Tim. He knew that we have more in common than we will ever have in disagreements, even though it is those contested areas that we often seem to dwell on. That is what made him such a fundamentally decent and well-liked parliamentarian.

In his valedictory speech in July Tim said something that every member of this house should hold on to, as the Premier pointed to. He said:

> Despite the theatrics, most of us are here for the right reasons.

He said:

> … for me, politics is the work you do to improve people's circumstances, not just now but in the future.

And he described politics as 'hope in motion'. That was Tim. At a time when trust in politics is incredibly fragile, he reminded us that you can hold strong convictions and still treat your opponents with respect. You can argue hard and still argue fairly. You can be principled without being unkind. Tim understood more than most the profound privilege it is to serve in this place. He may never have served on the government benches, but he showed that through good faith negotiations and committed advocacy, real change can be achieved to drive better outcomes for Victorians.

On behalf of the coalition, I extend our condolences to Tim's Greens colleagues, to his staff and to the people of Brunswick, whom he served for eight years. We also extend our deepest condolences to Tim's wife Angela, his children Louisa and Martin, his mother Judith, his extended family and his friends. To you I say this: this Parliament grieves with you. You have lost one of your most cherished, and we have lost one of our best. On a personal note, I wish to say to Tim's family that I consider it a privilege to have served alongside Tim in this Parliament. I regret we only shared one term in this place. Through your grief I hope you can also feel immensely proud of the man that you loved so dearly. He brought intelligence, humility and a fundamental decency to this chamber, and we are all the poorer without him. His is a legacy of service and compassion that will live on. Reform to our integrity and oversight agencies is now in motion, thanks in no small part to Tim's tireless advocacy. His life is the truest testament to his description of politics: hope in motion. Vale, Dr Tim Read. You will be missed.

Steve DIMOPOULOS (Oakleigh – Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC, Minister for Sport, Minister for Equality) (12:33): It is my honour to add just a few short words to this condolence motion for someone extraordinarily special. A lot has been said about Tim's achievements, and I want to add a couple of things that have been repeated. It was a very wonderful speech by the member for Melbourne. Tim advocated for many things, including pill testing, tobacco licensing, abolishing public drunkenness laws, statewide planning to eradicate congenital syphilis and HIV transmission, allowing gay men to donate blood and a statutory ban on solitary confinement in prisons. These are things that will not hit the front pages, but things that are so meaningful to many communities, including one that I identify with. I just want to say – and it has been said by other speakers very eloquently – that one of the takeaway paragraphs in his extraordinary valedictory was:

> Despite the theatrics, most of us are here for the right reasons. We all want good outcomes for Victorians, and we disagree on a lot, but few are here for mercenary reasons. Politicians are unfairly maligned, and for me, politics is the work you do to improve people's circumstances, not just now but in the future. Politics is hope in motion. We politicians might want our opponents to lose their seats, but we cannot help but feel some warmth towards those we work with.

That is a contribution from someone that I – as the member for Melbourne, the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier said – have had the distinct pleasure of being in the same Parliament with.

I am left with two reflections after having served with Tim – not knowing him well but having served with him. One is that we are all exposed sometimes to the worst aspects of politics in some respects – the sausage making from the inside, the party battles, the public policy battles and the media interference, so to speak. We are left with really hard decisions on a daily basis that test our characters. At the end of the day we can be left in our private thoughts, away from party politics, about whether we would vote for one of our colleagues to represent us in the Victorian Parliament. Tim Read would always get my vote. He was so decent and thorough, party politics aside.

The second reflection I have in relation to this wonderful human being is that being in this Parliament is a privilege but life is doubly a privilege. Being alive is a privilege. The fact that he did so much before he got here and while he was here should give us all pause for reflection – to hold the gift that we have close to our hearts and make every minute count. He made every single minute count.

I want to give my absolute love and affection – probably the only time I will – to the Greens political party on this occasion because you are a tight team. Seeing you walk in here today with just two of you, our hearts go out to you, as the Premier said. Our hearts also go out to people that were far more significant in Tim Read's life: his family, Angela and his children Martin and Louisa; his staff; and all the people that loved him in Brunswick. This place was a better place for his being in it. Vale, Tim Read.

Danny O'BRIEN (Gippsland South) (12:37): About seven weeks ago I sat here and listened to probably the best speech I have heard in this place in 12 years. The fact that it was delivered by a member of the Greens and that the Leader of the Nationals is saying this says everything that you need to know about Dr Tim Read. It was an extraordinary speech for a number of reasons, and I am going to refer to it a couple of times. The respect that I had for both Tim and the speech that he gave goes to one of the comments he made. He said in that speech:

> It helps to think of this place as a stage where the players overact outrageously and then wipe their make-up off as they wander out for a coffee.

It is exactly how I see this place too. All members will hear from time to time 'I can't stand politics – how you all fight and hate each other.' The reality is we do not, and Tim's speech really brought that home for all of us. We know that 70 or 80 per cent of legislation goes through this place unamended and unopposed. We actually do cooperate a lot. Earlier speakers talked about whether there are differences. Yes, there absolutely are differences, and we had plenty with the Greens.

I first got to know Tim Read a little bit after the 2018 election when the seating arrangements were set up for the chamber. For anyone who was not here in those days, I sat where the member for Morwell is now, with three Greens beside me. The member for Bendigo East sent me a text one day and said, 'What did you do to deserve that?' My response to her was that my main concern was that all of the new Labor MPs who came into the Parliament thought I was a Green for a long period of time. But it was a great opportunity, and it did let me get to know Tim Read a little bit. I got to learn what a decent, committed, passionate man he was.

I also had a brief period on the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee with Tim, as I did with many of his colleagues over a period of time. Speaker, please do not tell the Labor Party this, but occasionally the Nationals and the Greens would cooperate a bit. I would attempt to cooperate, and if I had run out of time to get my questions asked, I would often hand them over to the Greens, including to Tim. Unfortunately, my timber industry and coal-fired power questions did not often get asked by the Greens. But it was on that committee that I actually got to know people, and Tim was wonderful in his pursuit of integrity and his pursuit of transparency in government. And it was fantastic to serve with him.

I really loved what he said in his speech. He talked about coming in as a new MP and just being completely appalled by behaviour in question time. We have all been there. I remember as a staffer years ago standing up there with the journos looking across at the school kids that would come in to question time and shaking my head, thinking, 'Oh, my God, what do they think of us?' Tim reflected on that too. But what I really loved was that he added this line:

> We should be wary of orderly, polite parliaments. A chamber where elected representatives call out the government's failings and where members can yell at each other – that does not mean they always should – is more likely free and representative than less democratic parts of the world, where there are serious consequences for stepping out of line.

I was actually really pleased that Tim said that. It reminded me of the Winston Churchill quote:

> … democracy is the worst form of Government except … all those other forms that have been tried …

I think Tim's commentary sits very neatly next to a giant like Winston Churchill in that respect.

His commitment to democracy, to transparency and everything was evidenced in the success of getting the changes through on the group voting tickets. It is not lost on us all this week that we will be dealing with the IBAC changes as well that Tim pushed so strongly as chair of the Integrity and Oversight Committee. There is one thing I would like to correct the member for Melbourne on. I do not think anyone had an issue when Tim Read was elected as the chair of the IOC. I think we all thought that was a good thing and that he would be a good custodian of that committee and would point it in the right direction.

On behalf of the Nationals, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to Angela, to Martin and to Louisa, to our Greens colleagues who are hurting today – I know that – and to all his family and friends. Vale, Tim Read.

Katie HALL (Footscray) (12:42): Tim, as we all know, was a kind and thoughtful contributor to this place, and when Tim spoke with compassion and clarity we all would sit up and listen. Tim and I were elected at the same time and served together on the Electoral Matters Committee, where I was first exposed to his clear-minded, research-based interest in public policy. But the thing I would most like to speak about today is our work together as co-chairs of the Parliamentary Friends of Tibet. It speaks to Tim's empathy that he took on the role of co-chair, and that even when he was unwell, he still turned up for this small but beautiful Victorian community. I met with members of the Tibetan community last week, and they were thinking about and praying for Tim, knowing how unwell he was.

An event Tim and I organised to celebrate the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday meant a great deal to that community, who are working so hard to preserve their culture, traditions and language far away from home here in the safety of Victoria. I would like to read a letter that the Tibetan community prepared:

> We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr Tim Read MP. On behalf of the Tibetan Community of Australia Victoria Inc., we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, loved ones, colleagues and all those mourning this profound loss.
>
> Our community will remember Dr Read for his friendship and support for the Tibetan people. As Co-Chair of the Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Tibet, he showed continued interest in Tibet-related issues and stood in solidarity with the Tibetan community.
>
> We are particularly grateful for his support for Tibet, Tibetan community initiatives and the Tibetan language course …

which we run at a school in Footscray.

> His participation in events that brought together parliamentarians, Tibetans and Friends of Tibet helped strengthen the connection between our community and the Victorian Parliament.
>
> We deeply appreciate the kindness, friendship and support Dr Read extended to our community. His contribution and connection with the Tibetan people will be remembered with gratitude and respect.
>
> At this time of great sorrow, our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Angela, his children Louisa and Martin, his family, friends and colleagues. May they find strength and comfort during this difficult time.

May his noble deeds illuminate his onward journey, and may he attain a swift and peaceful rebirth.

With deepest condolences, prayers and gratitude,

Tibetan Community Australia Victoria Inc.

Tim's work with the Tibetan community, his attendance at events, his consistent empathy and his quiet compassion are things that I will always remember, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with him. Through my partner Joseph, I met doctors who had always held Tim in enormously high regard, including Professor Damien Bolton, who I know is deeply saddened by Tim's passing.

It does help to have a doctor in this sometimes most unhealthy of workplaces. I remember my daughter having a scrape, and in a rather unedifying fashion I sought out Tim Read to ask for some advice. It was in a post-COVID environment, and there was one thing around here that we had plenty of, and that was hand sanitiser. Tim's advice for childhood scrapes and cuts, to use hand sanitiser if you have nothing else at hand, will stay with me and has come in handy.

To his family and to his Greens colleagues, he really was the best of us. Thank you so much for sharing him with us. We were lucky to have served with him. Vale, Tim Read.

Gabrielle DE VIETRI (Richmond) (12:47): I rise to pay tribute to the life of our beloved friend and colleague Dr Tim Read. His many accolades and achievements have been well covered in the speeches before me. How one person could champion so many causes with so little fanfare is truly inspiring.

I do not know how you got through your speech, Ellen. Tim will be remembered by the cycling community for his advocacy on bike lanes. In Brunswick he will be remembered for the attention that he gave to every single constituent who approached him – for Sydney Road, for the Upfield line, for taking on developers and dodgy owners corporations, for his advocacy for the brickworks community, for accessible tram stops. In the medical and the LGBTIQA+ communities he will be remembered for his HIV advocacy and action as a community health practitioner and advocate. And across this state he will be remembered for the work that he did to improve transparency and integrity in this Parliament.

When bike lanes were under threat in Richmond a year ago, I gave Tim a call. He jumped on his bike and met me there to check them out. At one point, when the sun was setting, we turned around so that we could film the video with better lighting on our bikes in the bike lane. Because of that, he will also be remembered in the *Herald Sun* as my accomplice, riding down the bike lane the wrong way for about 30 centimetres. I think the headline was something like 'Stupid Greens MPs going the wrong way'. There is no-one I would rather be in the *Herald Sun* with than Tim Read.

His legacy will live on in so many ways that many of us into the future will never realise. His work in state Parliament to decriminalise public drunkenness then led us on the Greens council in Yarra to decriminalise public drinking. He took on monster trucks and unfair fines. His advocacy for pill testing meant that he paved the way for the very first, and hopefully not the only, fixed pill-testing site in Fitzroy. He fought to raise the age of criminal responsibility. He fought to end group voting tickets and to strengthen IBAC, and his work as the chair of the Integrity and Oversight Committee has finally produced these incredible reforms that we are seeing to IBAC. I only wish, while he knew that they were coming, that he could be here to celebrate them passing through, hopefully – not anticipating the outcome – both chambers this week.

It is thanks to Tim's tireless work that gay men can now donate blood, that we have a tobacco licensing scheme, that we have outlawed dodgy preference whispering and that ministers must publish their diaries. Known to some as the nerd with a conscience, he was a friend of nurses, of Palestine, of teachers, of cyclists and of anyone who sought his help. When people came to him he gave them his time and he gave them his respect.

Tim was so much more than his achievements. From the outpouring of tributes from every corner of the community and from across the political spectrum as well, everybody agrees on one thing: Tim was a fundamentally decent person. But more than that, he made everyone around him want to be decent too. Look at me now: I do not even want to have a dig at the government, and you are all saying nice things about a greenie. Words feel pretty inadequate for the loss that this Parliament, the Greens, Brunswick and Tim's family have experienced.

Tim was generous and smart and thoughtful. He was a perfect part of our team, big hearted and open minded. He knew so much about so many things, and in moments of silence sometimes he would inevitably decide to share something – some fact about contagious diseases or drug interactions or sometimes what he and Ange were watching on TV. What I would not give for one more Timsplain about the history of syphilis. It felt like Tim had so much more life in him. Even though he knew so much, he was still learning, and even though he had already given so much, he still had so much more to give. He fought with clarity and conviction for the future of this planet and everyone on it.

Tim was ever temperate. He was the voice of reason and calm in our party room. He was always willing to listen, always willing to hear different perspectives and to change his own perspective, always on the basis of reason, of evidence, of sound argumentation. He was such an enthusiastic participant in life. There was only one time I saw Tim reluctant, and that was when our team embarked on a team-building activity – personality analysis – thanks to our former leader Samantha Ratnam. Tim, always the scientist, could not hide his scepticism. I think his words were 'It's a little bit woo-woo for me.' But his scepticism fought with his good nature and his good nature prevailed, and he begrudgingly filled out the survey. Of course when the results came back his results in particular came back as analytical, even-tempered and humble. Even Tim could not deny their accuracy. The credibility of the process emerged as a tool for understanding each other as colleagues and our team dynamics, and with his usual grace Tim reflected on its benefits and embraced the task.

Tim was fun. Tim was funny. And he seemed to have time for everyone. I do not know if it was a coping mechanism for the seating arrangement, but I will let you in on one of his secrets, and that is that he thought the Leader of the Nationals was the funniest person in this chamber.

I want to thank his many staff who worked with him over the years in his eight years in Parliament. You helped shape the MP he became. You emboldened him. You helped make him larger than life in this chamber. Tim is part of who you are, and I want to acknowledge your loss too.

I loved knowing Tim, as we all did. It feels a little strange taking up this much space for my grief, because I know there are so many in the community who are grieving. Tim has left this world far too early, but it is a much better place because of him. To his family Angela, Louisa, Martin, his mum and sisters and extended family, I am so sorry for your loss. Tim's work was not finished. Serving his community was his calling. It was a pursuit that he followed until the very last days. Just as his memory will live on in us, I hope we will each carry something of Tim with us too – his humility, his compassion, his courage – and I hope we will continue the fight together for a better future. Rest in power, the good Dr Tim Read.

Anthony CIANFLONE (Pascoe Vale) (12:55): I rise to convey the sorrow, condolences, prayers, thoughts and wishes of the Merri-bek community on the passing of Dr Tim Read, the state member for Brunswick, and place on the record our community's gratitude and sincere thanks for his valuable contribution through his eight years of service as the member for Brunswick from 2018 to 2026. Whether it was as a doctor, physician, medical health researcher or parliamentarian, Tim dedicated his life to the service, wellbeing and betterment of others in our community. As his parliamentary colleague and electoral neighbour, regardless of our political differences, I always acknowledged and respected his commitment to the issues he advocated so passionately on, concerning integrity, transparency, housing, education, transport, health, mental health, the environment, social justice and so much more. Through these policy discussions I always noted the curiosity Tim brought to these debates, his decency in disagreeing and his touch of humanity to political and public life.

I would frequently speak to many locals who would tell me they were previously treated or supported through health issues and challenges by Tim during his years as a local doctor, all of whom spoke very highly of him, including the late senator Mehmet Tillem. When I became the member for Pascoe Vale in 2022, the seat of Pascoe Vale had been significantly redistributed further south down Hope Street, Melville Road and Moreland Road, into Tim's former patch in the Brunswick state seat. There were several times when voters contacted him thinking they were still in Tim's seat, and he would very politely connect and introduce them to yours truly as their new local member over email. We genuinely did work collegially together on the matters and issues that people needed help with in our local community. When we had a stormy or bad weather day during parliamentary sittings and I had decided to drive in, on the odd occasion when we finished late I would bump into Tim on the way out and offer him a lift, as we would be heading in the same direction up Sydney Road, but he was always happy to jump on his bike and ride home. I think he always thought I was trying to recruit him, but that was not the case, just to be clear.

Whether in the Legislative Assembly or out at the many community events we would be attending together, including our fair share of Australian citizenship ceremonies at the Coburg town hall, I always admired his kind, friendly and welcoming nature and his dry sense of humour, all of which were brilliantly on display just a few weeks ago in his final parliamentary contribution and valedictory. He would also regularly test out his Italian with me while seated at these hours-long local events, and he was always curious and asked about my family's Italian Calabrese heritage, given his own family connections to Italy, which I appreciated and respected.

Perhaps the measure of a good parliamentarian is not simply the issues they championed or the contribution they made in this chamber but whether this place, the community and the people around them were better for having known them, and in Tim's case that is undoubtedly true. Federal member for Wills Peter Khalil stated:

> Tim dedicated himself to serving the people of Brunswick and was a tireless advocate for the community he loved. Regardless of our political differences, his commitment to public service, and the energy and care he brought forward when representing Brunswick was never in doubt.

His predecessor Carlo Carli, a former member for Brunswick and president of the Brunswick Zebras soccer club, said Tim Read was a great humanitarian:

> It was always a pleasure to catch up and talk and discuss what needed to be done locally.

Merri-bek City Council stated:

> As the Member for Brunswick, Tim worked collaboratively with Council on key electorate matters and was a widely respected community leader and parliamentarian.
>
> We thank him for his dedicated service to our community and his tireless contribution to public health, climate resilience, public integrity, sustainable transport and affordable housing. He will be greatly missed.
>
> Council will fly its flags at half-mast this afternoon and tomorrow in recognition of Dr Tim's passing.

Maggie Cowling from the Climate Action Merri-bek group stated:

> Tim's contribution to Climate Action was enormous. He had been a member of Climate Action Merri-bek years ago before he entered parliament and we worked closely with him on many campaigns. We are devastated by his death and will honour his memory through action. Rest in power, Tim.

Faith Hunter and the Merri-bek Bicycle User Group, BUG, stated:

> Merri-bek BUG are deeply saddened by the loss of Tim Read. Tim was not just the local member to many of us. His impact went far beyond our local electorate and community and his loss will be felt just as far.
>
> As a local MP he was accessible, kind and determined to right wrongs and help those who needed help. He combined a clarity about what was wrong and what needed to be done to fix it with the conviction to do so, while also responding with utter kindness to anyone who needed it.

> Tim could operate at one level, pursuing reform at IBAC and other issues going to the core of integrity and transparency in Victorian government, and still have a ready grin and hello for anyone who recognised him on Sydney Road.
>
> He was generous with his time for Merri-bek BUG and our members, always available to come to meetings and ready at his office with an invitation and a plan to address issues we raised. A regular sight on Brunswick's streets on his bike, Tim joined us at the Critical Mass rides criss-crossing the suburbs, and brought someone new with him every time, or so it seemed.
>
> At a time when many have felt comfortable using basic infrastructure for people on bikes as a political weapon, Tim was a champion for the social justice and equity that providing safe options for people on bikes provide, and the rights of everyone to move around safely.
>
> Almost everyone has a Tim Read story, something that speaks to his openness and the genuine connections he made. In his final speech Tim Read described politics as hope in motion. We will remember Tim Read when we are on our bikes, and we will keep that motion going.

Andrea Bunting from Walk on Merri-bek stated that:

> Tim Read was a staunch advocate for safe walking We worked with Tim on many campaigns for safer pedestrian infrastructure and for safer speed limits. Tim and his staff helped us with advice, with formulating strategies for our campaigns, with producing campaign materials, with organising public meetings, and with advocating for pedestrian safety in parliament, to Merri-bek Council and to government departments. Thank you for everything Tim. We will miss you so much.

Despite his health challenges, Tim of course remained the eternal optimist to the very end. As he said in his valedictory speech:

> Despite the theatrics, most of us are here for the right reasons. We all want good outcomes for Victorians, and we disagree on a lot, but few are here for mercenary reasons. Politicians are unfairly maligned, and for me, politics is the work you do to improve people's circumstances, not just now but in the future. Politics is hope in motion. We politicians might want our opponents to lose their seats, but we cannot help but feel some warmth towards those we work with.

I very much concur and echo those wise words of Tim. He follows very much in the footsteps of his local state member for Brunswick predecessors Tom Roper and Jane Garrett, who are now in the other life and who left a huge legacy, as will Tim Read for our local community for many years to come. My prayers, thoughts and wishes are with Tim and his family, friends, loved ones and supporters during this very, very difficult time, and the thoughts of the entire Merri-bek community are with them too – Angela, his wife; Louisa and Martin, his children; Judith, his mum; and the members for Melbourne and Richmond and those upper house colleagues of his too. It has been a privilege to serve alongside him in this chamber and in our local community, the people's republic of Merri-bek. Vale, Dr Tim Read.

David SOUTHWICK (Caulfield) (13:02): I rise to offer my condolences on the passing of Dr Tim Read, the member for Brunswick. Quite often we are in this chamber speaking on condolence motions about people we did not actually know. Very well-researched contributions are made, and we sit here and reflect on the huge contributions former members of Parliament have made to this place and to this state. We learn a lot about what has come before and also how we reflect on the jobs that we all have in this place. I think it is very difficult when one of our colleagues has passed, particularly when we hear in the contributions that have been made how Dr Tim had certainly connected with everybody in this chamber, no matter what side of politics they were on. I think just about everybody has a story to tell about a person that was passionate, an intellect and very focused on what he wanted to do when he came here and who did not waste a minute of his time in terms of why he was here.

Quite often I have made the comment that it is important to try and get people elected into this house that bring with them real-life experience. Tim was a doctor that gave up being a doctor to come in here and be a parliamentarian, although we do hear today that he did some further practising, and consulting, albeit in his office, so he certainly took that to the next level of real experience. But I think for somebody that was so passionate and that contributed so much, we reflect in terms of what we need to do and can do when we are elected into this place and about the legacies we want to leave

behind. For somebody that had been in this house for a short time, really, of just on eight years, to think about the legacy and the contributions that Dr Tim Read made to Victoria and certainly to the causes and the passions that he was focused on, I think, is something that his family will remember forever and will be passed on for many generations to come.

I know that many of you will know that there is no love between the Greens and me, and probably you would have thought that I would be the last one that would be speaking on a condolence motion for a Greens member. Tim surpassed that in terms of who he represented. He was a gentleman, and even personally, when I have had and my community have had some tough times – although he may have had a different view on international affairs in the Middle East – and when I was hurting and my community were hurting, he came and checked in on me and my community and asked how I was going and how the Jewish community were going. I did not get that from others. I have certainly got that from many across from me but not all. He was probably the only Greens member that I did get that from, and it just shows that he was above politics. He was not here just to fight and pointscore; he was someone of compassion and of intellect. He will be missed. It was a life too short but a legacy that will last forever. Vale, Dr Tim Read.

Kathleen MATTHEWS-WARD (Broadmeadows) (13:06): I do not often wear green, but I do so today in memory of our friend Tim. It is so hard to follow such wonderful and heartfelt contributions, especially by the members for Melbourne and Richmond, and our hearts are with them today. It is a great honour to speak about a man of such integrity. Even in his final days, when the Premier called him last week, integrity was what he spent some of his precious last moments on earth talking about. I hope he will be proud of the legislation the Premier has brought to our Parliament, which is before us this week.

There is so much to say about Tim, but the word that keeps coming to my mind is 'wominjeka'. It is the Wurundjeri word that is used to welcome us to country, but its true meaning is 'to come with purpose', and that is what Tim did every day. He just went about doing good work, quietly and humbly and always with purpose. He lived his principles and remained true to his vision. He was kind, compassionate and deeply caring. No matter who you were or where you came from, Tim treated you with dignity, respect and genuine warmth. When my office manager Nat Naidu was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year, he was one of the first to reach out and offer support. It was always service above self – service to the community and those he represented and service to Victoria. In his life as a GP he improved the lives of individuals, and in his time here he got to improve the lives of all Victorians.

Tim was in this place for all the right reasons. He saw the best in people and worked with goodwill towards everyone. He understood that real progress comes from working together, finding common ground and always keeping the interests of the people we serve at the centre of our decisions. He knew that collaboration was the best way to get progress on issues that mattered most to him – the environment, integrity and justice – and he appreciated that even small progress was a step in the right direction and could always be built upon. I witnessed him many times use reason, facts and humility to get his point across, and he never once let ego get in the way. Tim was thoughtful, principled and effective. He had a way of bringing people together, listening carefully and ensuring everyone felt heard. He also knew that diversity delivers better governance and that the more people you have at the table the better the decisions you get.

Tim and I shared a love for active and public transport – buses, bikes, trains and pedestrians – and for our beautiful Merri and Moonee Ponds creeks, which bound both our electorates. I had the pleasure of working with him on local priorities, and we saw the positive outcomes that are possible when politicians put communities ahead of politics. I wish he and John Englart could be around for the opening of the Upfield path link to the ring road, which will also connect our creek paths and create more cycling opportunities in the north.

I got to know Tim best as a fellow parliamentary representative on the board of VicHealth, the world's first health promotion foundation, which was established under Labor with tripartisan political support in 1987 through the Victorian Tobacco Act 1987. He contributed so much on the board, informed by his years in public health. His knowledge and dedication were second to none, and he deeply understood the social determinants of health: the impact of exclusion, poverty and food insecurity and the importance of education, health, housing, literacy, prevention and safe and secure employment. Together we were so proud of VicHealth's current focus and success with priority communities.

A gentle soul, Tim served with integrity, humility and a genuine and determined desire to make a difference. His dedication to his community, his generosity of spirit and his unwavering commitment to public service will not be forgotten. He made a lasting difference to the lives of so many, and his legacy will continue through the work he championed and the countless lives he touched. He was one of the best of us, respected not only by his party but by all of us in this place. As I also did from my good friend Jo Connellan, I learned so much from Tim and will always be grateful for his generosity in sharing his knowledge and perspectives. I did not get Timsplained obviously quite as much, but we did have a long car ride home together from a VicHealth regional board forum where together we sorted out tobacco.

I wanted Jo to have the opportunity to place some words in *Hansard*, but like Tim she was also very humble and resisted. She then agreed once I convinced her of the importance of his potential grandchildren being able to read about the incredible person he was in the records that are kept here in perpetuity. Jo did not even want her name mentioned. She said, 'Make it from a long-time old codger from Brunswick,' which he would have laughed about. I quote:

> Tim was the very best local member – approachable, available, kind, a good listener, often with good advice on how to improve your ideas.
>
> He was hopeful and optimistic, and willing to take up any good cause.
>
> He was like the GP we all dream of having who happened to end up as our representative.

I pass on my sincerest condolences to Jo and all of his many friends, his constituents, members of the Greens, his parliamentary colleagues, his staff and, most of all, his family: his mother Judith, his sisters, his beloved children Martin and Louisa and his loving partner Angela. He will be deeply missed, fondly remembered and forever respected by all who knew him. Rest in peace, dear Tim. Thank you for your service and your deep commitment to humanity.

Cindy McLEISH (Eildon) (13:11): I was so very sad to hear of the death of Tim on the weekend. He was taken way too soon. It is widely agreed that Tim was popular in this place. That probably was not one of his ambitions when he came here, but such was his reputation as being a good bloke. Tim did not have to do anything in particular to be popular, well liked and respected. He just had to be himself. And he was, always. It was hard not to like and respect him. He was diligent, intelligent, caring, responsible, tolerant – as I think about how he had to manage some of the other members of the Integrity and Oversight Committee, for example – and somebody who could be trusted. His actions – how he conducted himself – spoke volumes about the person he was.

I recall when he joined this place in 2018 one of my girlfriends, Judy, said to me that she knew him from school at Geelong College. Judy's family moved to the Bellarine when she was in year 12, and she knew no-one at school. She said to me that Tim was one of the loveliest people she met, who really helped her through that difficult year. I spoke to Tim about this not long after he arrived. We swapped phone numbers quickly, and we knew we each had somebody in the other party that we would be able to talk to with that common bond. We always intended to get together, the three of us, and have a drink, but time gets away, people get busy and then circumstances change drastically. Not only did Tim have that connection with my girlfriend, but he worked in a field that one of my family members was an expert in, HIV and AIDS, and he did work in advancing HIV prevention before entering here, so I sussed him out from that angle too. It turns out his reputation was well and truly intact.

Tim's issues were different from mine. He was a Green, for starters, and I am a Liberal. He represented a tiny 14.1 square kilometres. I cannot get my head around that, when mine is over 10,000 square kilometres. If we did not know about it, Tim told us: that he had trains, trams, buses, high-density housing and cyclists who commuted, like he did, to and from this place. He did not have farmland, vineyards, forests, tourism businesses or mountains for those cyclists. But there were things that we did agree on and we did have in common, as he did with other members of the Liberal and National parties. We wanted to make a difference. We were here for the right reasons. We believed in honesty, integrity and transparency, not just in this place but in life in general. Personally, evidence and research do it for me, and they did it for Tim – the need for stronger IBAC powers and the fight against the closure of VicHealth, which is something that, right until the end, he continued to fight for. We talked of books, novels, e-bikes. I did not get a history of syphilis, and I am not sure whether I missed out on something there or not.

Tim's valedictory speech, as has been widely mentioned, was inspiring, and he touched many with his warmth, humour and what he believed in. I would have loved to have had a greater engagement with him when I last saw him. On the comments by the members for Melbourne and Richmond, he might not have liked the attention and the fanfare, but I am sure he would have accepted them with grace and humility, as was his nature.

Tim rode off into the sunset on his bike, I am sure. Tim, may you be in a place where cyclists do not have to avoid cars and trams or potholes and with the wind at your back. Condolences from my family and my girlfriend Judy's family to Angela, Louisa and Martin; his mother and sisters; his wider family; and particularly his Greens colleagues and staff, who are dealing with such difficulty at this time.

I do want to mention that Tim and I were rule followers but not always. We heard that he was arrested. My family members were arrested on the north–south pipeline protest. That is probably as tough as it is going to get for us protesting on this side of the house. Tim will be so fondly remembered by so many for his contribution.

Brad ROWSWELL (Sandringham) (13:16): As I am the last opposition speaker, I do not intend to take too much time, but I do want to say a few words about the late Dr Tim Read. Some may be wondering why a Liberal MP from Sandringham would add their name to today's condolence motion. The simple answer is that we shared a common humanity, a capacity to see good in others and a preparedness to work with others to enable good.

I had a bit to do with Tim when he was the nominated Greens Whip in the 59th Parliament and I served as Opposition Whip at the time. There was never an argument between us. I would text him or call him – we would do deals that no-one will ever know about – and he would do the same. We worked well together, and we just got things done. A former chamber attendant and staff member of the Parliament who many will remember, David Robertson, took the initiative to establish a regular men's health breakfast in the last Parliament. Everyone was welcome – MPs, electorate office and parliamentary staff, journalists, men and women. Tim regularly attended and contributed, as did I. Tim recognised the obligation we all have to keep the important conversation about men's health ongoing.

The corridor conversations I had with Tim were always warm. There was never judgement, just an opportunity for decency and genuine engagement, a fundamental interest in others and an authentic openness to learn and to listen. Having served in the 59th Parliament's Integrity and Oversight Committee as its deputy chair, I am pleased that Tim had the opportunity to chair that committee in this Parliament. Tim was the right person to chair that important parliamentary committee. Having a non-government chair did not just send the right message to Victorians; I believe it was also the right thing to do. Plus, I do not think he ever sought to cut the broadcast feed midway through evidence being given during a public hearing by a former IBAC Commissioner. I know that many of my colleagues, including those who served on that committee – the members for Rowville and Mildura – held him in high regard while serving on that committee with him. I also know that the committee manager Sean Coley and his staff deeply valued Tim's focused contribution to the work of that

committee. I think that history will judge Tim Read to be correct when it comes to his advocacy for the preservation of VicHealth.

Let this condolence motion be a demonstration to every Victorian of the capacity of this Parliament to celebrate and champion, to acknowledge and to remind each other of the strength of our common humanity. To Tim's family – Angela, Louisa and Martin – to his Greens colleagues and to those who knew him and loved him the most, I also add my deep condolences on the death of Dr Tim Read. May he rest in peace.

The SPEAKER (13:20): With the indulgence of the house, I wish to echo the contributions made today in memory of our friend and colleague Dr Tim Read, the member for Brunswick. Tim was a unique member, always calm, always positive. He was a passionate advocate for his community and took on his duty as a legislator with immense seriousness. As manager of Greens business in the Legislative Assembly, Tim took a keen interest in procedure. He was a regular attendee and contributor to the weekly whips meetings and actively worked with his colleagues in the chamber. If Tim appeared at the Speaker's door, he would be attending with a valuable contribution, a constructive question or indeed just a kind word. This was one of Tim's greatest strengths. He was passionately collaborative. He saw the best in every person. He was kind beyond measure and seemed never to appear without a smile on his face.

Just weeks ago we sat where we are now as Tim made his final contribution to this place. Tim had that rare ability to speak without interjection. His contributions were thoughtful, well researched and sometimes funny. He never felt the need to raise his voice to be heard, because when he spoke others listened. He conducted himself with a powerful yet quiet grandeur. Such was our respect for him that there was absolute silence during his final contribution and genuine applause and acknowledgement at the end.

Tim set the bar high with his contributions in the house. It should not be the exception that members in this place are decent, hardworking and respectful. It should be the norm. Like me, he is probably one of very few members who have never been kicked out of the house for interjecting, and that is a proud and honourable achievement.

How fortunate we all were to serve in this place with Tim, a man of deep conviction and integrity. Tim was often up for a chat in the hallway or the dining room. More recently he was able to share with me how his journey with cancer was going. We shared some things in common around the cancer journey. He would sometimes also talk about how he was feeling from day to day and he would let me know if he was going to be absent from Parliament due to his treatments and for how long. He did not have to do any of these things, but it was in his nature to make sure things were done by the book – he loved rules, like I do – and that the Speaker, of course, was kept informed.

I am truly saddened that Tim has left us but immeasurably grateful to have known him. On behalf of the Parliament of Victoria, the clerks, the staff across all the departments and the Speaker's office, I extend my deepest sympathy to Tim's wife Angela, to his children Louisa and Martin and to his extended family. To his colleagues in the Victorian Greens party, his staff, his friends, his community and to all who knew and loved him, our deepest sympathy and our love and thoughts are with you all. Vale, Tim Read.

Motion agreed to in silence, members showing unanimous agreement by standing in their places.

Ben CARROLL (Niddrie – Premier) (13:24): I move:

> That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Dr Tim Read, the house now adjourns until tomorrow.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned 1:25 pm.