

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

Tuesday, 5 September 2017

(Extract from book 15)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 10 November 2016)

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Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
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Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence (until 23 August 2017)	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O’Sullivan, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips and Ms Wooldridge.

Procedure Committee — The President, Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Pennicuik, Ms Pulford, Ms Tierney and Ms Wooldridge.

Legislative Council standing committees

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — #Mr Barber, Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning — #Mr Barber, Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmr, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing, #Ms Symes and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — #Mr Barber, #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmr, Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, Mr Morris, Mr Mulino, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Mr Somyurek, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

Port of Melbourne Select Committee — Mr Barber, Mr Mulino, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

Fire Services Bill Select Committee — Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Rich Phillips, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Ms Hutchins, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O’Brien, Mr Pakula and Mr Walsh.

Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Garrett and Ms Ryall.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath, Ms Patten and Mr Somyurek. (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon and Ms Spence.

Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Halfpenny, Mr Richardson and Mr Riordan.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): Ms Britnell, Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards and Ms McLeish.

House Committee — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson and Mr Wells.

Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee — (*Council*): Mr Gepp and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Ms Patten, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing. (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath and Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Blandthorn, Mr J. Bull, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

Council — Acting Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

President:

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

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The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁶	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ²	Western Metropolitan	AC	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁷	Northern Victoria	Nats
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Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁴	Northern Victoria	ALP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Appointed 16 April 2015

² DLP until 26 June 2017

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁴ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁵ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁶ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁷ Appointed 13 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

AC — Australian Conservatives; ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

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Tuesday, 5 September 2017

The PRESIDENT (Hon. B. N. Atkinson) took the chair at 12.05 p.m. and read the prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The PRESIDENT — On behalf of the Victorian state Parliament I acknowledge the Aboriginal peoples, the traditional custodians of this land which has served as a significant meeting place of the first people of Victoria. I acknowledge and pay respect to the elders of the Aboriginal nations in Victoria past and present and welcome any elders and members of the Aboriginal communities who may visit or participate in the events or proceedings of the Parliament this week.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The PRESIDENT — I also acknowledge former member and in fact former minister and Deputy President of the Parliament who is in the gallery today, Mr Peter Hall. Welcome.

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Fiona Richardson, MP

Mr JENNINGS (Special Minister of State) — I move:

That this house expresses its sincere sorrow at the death, on Wednesday, 23 August 2017, of the Honourable Fiona Richardson, MP, and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by her to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Northcote from 2006 to 2017, Minister for Women from 2014 to 2017 and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence from 2014 to 2017.

On the last occasion this house met — on Thursday, 24 August — it was my most unfortunate obligation to inform the house formally of the passing of our ministerial colleague Fiona Richardson, who had died the afternoon before. At that time I reflected on the wave of sorrow that had permeated the Parliament and completely taken over the emotional fabric of the parliamentary Labor Party as our caucus dealt with their collective grief and despair at the premature passing of Fiona Richardson.

Since that time, and I thank the house for its courtesy in adjourning on notification of Minister Richardson's passing, there has been a remarkable outpouring of community grief and distress and support for Fiona Richardson's family. So from the outset can I repeat that the government sincerely offers our condolences and consolation to Fiona's mother, Veronica, to her

children, Marcus and Catherine, and to her partner, Stephen. In the days ahead we hope we can find a way to continue our support for the family, those who feel her loss so intimately and so deeply, and to find a way for the community to be stronger in our appreciation of her contribution to public life and the tragedy of her premature death.

President, as you would be aware there was a remarkable state memorial service that was held in Minister Richardson's electorate in the last week. It gave ample testimony to the issues that I had foreshadowed, the issues that had been commented on in the media and indeed the issues that other members of this chamber had been gracious enough to comment on. There were a number of elements that were amplified at that memorial service.

I had the remarkable personal good fortune, as indeed Mr Dalidakis did, to hold hands with Fiona's mother, Veronica, for about 10 minutes before the event. Veronica, who I had not previously met, was so gracious and so generous of spirit to share intimate stories of Fiona's upbringing and their personal journey. Whilst Mr Dalidakis and I were actually hoping to transmit strength to Veronica, in fact it was a two-way street. There was no doubt about it: she was actually trying to comfort and console us at the time of our discussion before the memorial service started. I will reflect on one or two of those elements that Veronica shared with us in a couple of minutes time.

As the memorial service went its course we heard not only of a contribution to public life that was demonstrated through Minister Richardson's cabinet and ministerial responsibilities but also the story of her support to her local community. There was a great testament by the principal of the local school, who talked about Fiona's engagement with the electorate and the impact she had made on community life. But the most overwhelming stories from my vantage point were those that were shared that related to Fiona's personal history with cancer and the way in which she sought support and received support from others — in fact she probably did not actively seek support from many people at all, but she offered support to others who had endured cancer either themselves or through their loved ones.

I thought the contribution of Jane Garrett in that circumstance was an extremely powerful story of personal engagement, personal support and personal connection. We all came to understand the depths of that relationship and the support that they had provided to one another. Ken Lay also relayed very clearly that in his family circumstances he had received comfort

and support when his wife was dealing with her personal health issues — support that had been provided by Fiona Richardson.

I want to go back briefly to the heads-up that I shared with the chamber the last time we met in relation to what are the key indicators and what are the ways in which you could find the measure of Fiona Richardson, the woman, the mother, the political campaigner, the political organiser and her unique status in the Victorian Parliament. What made her rare? From the Parliament handbook, you would actually say that her journey of being born in Tanzania and arriving in Australia in her early years was quite an unusual pathway to lead to this Parliament. You could also look at the fact of her military service — she spent some time at the Melbourne University Regiment — and what that might mean for a steely disposition. It is something that may have actually seemed out of left field in relation to a woman's pathway to a parliamentary career. The crossover of her education and her pathway here — not only her emphasis on psychology and her emphasis on eye research — is not really something that in our day-to-day engagement we may have appreciated.

Steve Bracks gave an interesting rejoinder in relation to the thesis that she embarked upon. There was one element that rang true to me. Fiona was organising what seemed to be from her vantage point a strong thesis — that East and West Germany would not be united — but in fact she was completing this thesis almost at the time that the Berlin Wall was being dismantled brick by brick. Notwithstanding that, she had a determination and was going to complete the task and then had to slightly recalibrate. How that task was concluded I thought was an indication of her negotiating skills and her ability to make some adjustment but also a determination to see something through to the end.

That is a hallmark of what will be understood to be her legacy in terms of the activities that she embarked upon within the labour movement generally. If Fiona was determined to pursue something, she would pursue it with great vigour and great determination. She was a person within the labour movement who knew how to organise. That is a remarkable skill in relation to not only understanding numbers and the consequences of how ballots are actually undertaken but also doing your best to make sure that you have preferential outcomes in those ballots. She was certainly one of those people who dedicated her political life within the labour movement to achieve that end, with many great successes.

I probably have a ready reckoner of those successes because we may have been counterbalancing what we viewed as successes from time to time. I certainly know she had a great determination and a great ability to do that. Within those skills she also demonstrated great stillness and confidence to absorb and perhaps not give away her hand prematurely. That again is a skill that perhaps a number of politicians could actually be mindful of. Sometimes it is better to say nothing than to say too much.

Having said that, she could also tell a compelling story. Have no doubt about it: she could tell a compelling story. She knew how to do that in terms of influence, both in terms of outcomes within the labour movement and importantly also in terms of outcomes in relation to preventing family violence and understanding gender equality. It became her unswerving determination to achieve those policy outcomes and those objectives and a better result for our community during her ministerial career.

Have no doubt about Fiona Richardson's determination to establish and create a momentum that will lead to family violence being eradicated in our community. Have no doubt about her determination to carve out a discipline and a practice and a culture change to drive the prevention of family violence in our community. Have no doubt about her determination to make sure that people understand how gender inequality and structural disadvantage of women reinforce the incidence of family violence in our community and how those issues should be linked.

These were intellectually and politically brought together by Minister Richardson, and she was absolutely determined to bring those policy objectives together. Indeed, as I reflected on when I spoke last time in this chamber, right to the very end she was organising people in this Parliament to implore the government to continue on that journey. I can assure the house that the government is determined to continue with that agenda and that determination and to make sure that those objectives are achieved. Not only would that be a fitting legacy but the achievement of those ends would actually be something that hopefully the entire Parliament and the entire community could mobilise around.

I would like to conclude on recognising that determination and that capability. Whatever lessons we can learn from the political, professional and personal acumen of Fiona Richardson, I implore all of us to dig deep within ourselves to reflect on the best contribution that she has made and the best contribution that we can make and to steer those outcomes for the future.

I also reiterate the great sorrow that permeates the Victorian Labor Party and the labour movement and send our sympathy, condolence and support to Veronica, Marcus, Catherine and Stephen and their loved ones.

Ms WOOLDRIDGE (Eastern Metropolitan) — I rise to support the Leader of the Government's condolence motion and to acknowledge and celebrate the life of the Honourable Fiona Richardson. In doing so I too want to extend my sincere condolences on behalf of the parliamentary Liberal Party to Fiona's family — Stephen, Marcus, Catherine and Veronica — her many friends, her colleagues, staff and the community that she continued to represent so passionately right up until her passing on 23 August.

I had actually just finished speaking to a group of 80 school students from Eastern Metropolitan Region encouraging them to think about a career in politics. I had told the story that I tell from time to time when I meet with school students about how three girls from my higher school certificate class at Methodist Ladies College (MLC) had gone on to become members of Parliament and then ministers, and that if they were thinking about a future in politics it was achievable — they and some of their peers in that room that evening could be members in 30 years time in this Parliament, talking to and encouraging other students. Those three girls, now of course women, were Nicola Roxon, Fiona Richardson and me, all of whom were in the same year right through senior school at MLC.

It was only minutes before I heard of her passing that I had been talking about Fiona fondly in terms of challenging and encouraging others to stand. It was such a shock to hear the news of her passing, and I went home that night and dug out the old school photos. I had many happy memories of those times and experiences shared. That only slightly balanced the sadness that we all felt and the sadness that Mr Jennings has talked about that came over the Parliament and that was really right throughout the building and all the members on learning that Fiona had passed away.

It really was an honour to attend Fiona's memorial service and to pay tribute to such a fearless member of Parliament. There were many touching moments, and really what struck me, as was set up at the beginning, is that it was a celebration; it was warm, it was friendly, there was laughter and all of that was combined with, of course, the many tears.

Mr Jennings talked about the story of Fiona's thesis. That was one of the stories — and I will recount a couple — that struck me: the fact that the night before

she was due to submit it the Berlin Wall came down, which of course undermined the entire premise of it. My takeaway from that was that her capacity to seek and get an extension and adjust accordingly really was about the development and enhancement of the skills that held her in such good stead in Parliament. We all know that you need the capacity to be flexible, sometimes to be a little bit pragmatic and to achieve the outcome in terms of the long-term goal. That is what I took away from that story. She obviously showed signs of that intellect and capacity from a very early stage.

The other thing in reflecting on it, and we all come to these condolence motions from a personal perspective, is how not only had we shared our time at secondary school but there were so many parallels that struck me: obtaining degrees from Melbourne University, working for members of Parliament, both being elected in 2006 to the lower house and both Fiona and I having the honour of being Minister for Women. I must say I have always watched and cheered on Fiona's success within the Labor Party in all the roles that she had.

Steve Bracks talked a little too, very fondly, in his role as MC of her capacity and her skills, and it became even more obvious why he had appointed her straight to a parliamentary secretary position upon her getting elected to Parliament. She had many roles. She was Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Parliamentary Secretary for Treasury and Finance. In opposition she was shadow Minister for Public Transport and for small business and innovation. Then on the change of government in 2014 she was appointed as Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence.

I saw that as the Premier making a decision on what was a very big issue for the Labor Party in opposition, and on coming to government he put that big issue in the very capable and competent hands of Fiona Richardson. There is no doubt that it was a big issue not only for the Labor Party but also for women and children in this state, and the impact Fiona has had is very significant.

Fiona has always fought campaigns on her own terms. That is something which I observed but which also came through very strongly at the memorial service. She always ran on and lived by very traditional Labor values, and this obviously resonated very strongly in her Northcote community. I think her wide recognition in Northcote and her care for and strong voice for her constituents is what saw her be so successful in the face of a very significant competitive political environment in which she was successfully re-elected multiple times in that community. Obviously while having

responsibility at a higher level she campaigned and kept up her very clear passion for and commitment to her local electorate as well.

For me the word ‘courage’ also aptly describes Fiona. To talk so openly and publicly about her own history of family violence at the hands of an abusive father I think took incredible courage, and the fact that her *Australian Story* was re-run last week was a reminder to us all of the courage that it took, the comfort it would give and the difference it would make to so many women in terms of having the confidence to have a voice on these issues, speaking out and seeking to drive the change that is needed.

She also had great courage, as Mr Jennings has said, in relation to her own cancer journey. The story of the blanket — in terms of the advice she provided to others as she talked about what made a difference for her — and her having that blanket with the smells of home that Jane Garrett from the other place talked about so well was a very strong one and in fact one that I went home and talked with my family about. It is one that will certainly stay with me. The courage she had speaking about her own journeys has given strength to others in the journeys that they subsequently have faced.

Fiona was many things to the communities and the people who knew her. She was a warrior for the Labor Party — there is no doubt about that — a champion for women’s rights, an advocate for victim survivors and for all Victorians touched by family violence and really a force for change that she was so passionate about and drove so well. I not only had a lot of respect for the work that she did in preventing violence against women but also for her passion about equal representation of women not only in politics and in Parliament but also in our broader society as a whole.

She was fearless in the work that she did. She did not tolerate prejudice. I think one of the most commonly used words at the memorial service was that she was steely eyed, and I think many of us had experienced those steely eyes at various times.

Tributes have been paid from far and wide. They all acknowledge and recognise the work Fiona has done. She genuinely has made an enduring contribution to the Victorian community as an advocate, as a member of Parliament and as a minister. She was a woman of principle and strength, and she served this Parliament, her constituents and the people of Victoria with great distinction.

I do want to say there was a lovely comment from Ken Lay, a story that also stuck with me, and it was a bit of a lighter moment when he was talking about Fiona as a force for change. He recounted the story of her saying that when a woman strives to be equal with men, surely she is lacking in ambition. That was a lighter moment, but I thought it was very Fiona and very consistent with her passions.

On behalf of the Victorian Liberal Party I do offer my sincere condolences to her family, and I also take the opportunity to thank her family for sharing her with us even right up until those last days. I had a look at Twitter at the time, and she was tweeting and Facebooking right up until those last days as well on the things that she was passionate about and the things that she cared about.

Vale, Fiona Richardson. You have made a difference, you have changed lives for the better and we all thank you for it.

Ms SPRINGLE (South Eastern Metropolitan) — I rise to add a voice of support for this condolence motion today on behalf of the Victorian Greens. Politicians are often pilloried for lacking a background in and a deep understanding of the issues on which they work, for being career politicians with limited professional and personal experience in their portfolios and for failing to connect in a real and meaningful way with people from all walks of life whose daily existence is affected and sometimes threatened by stigma, discrimination and violence. No such charge could ever be laid against Fiona Richardson. She lived her work in a very real way on a daily basis.

As Minister for Women she brought to bear the experience of thousands of Victorian women to address gender discrimination and work towards gender equality in Victoria. Last year she presided over the launch of *Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy*, the first of its kind in this state. In her preamble to the strategy Fiona challenged every single Victorian to step up to the mark; to eliminate inequality in their own lives, in their own communities and in their own workplaces; and to act as drivers of change contributing to a fairer and better future. It is an impressive initiative that I hope will impact on the lives of thousands of Victorian women and girls in the years to come, as well as on men and boys and the communities in which they live.

As Victoria’s first Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Fiona made history. She oversaw the groundbreaking Royal Commission into Family Violence, including a comprehensive raft of

recommendations for reform which will improve and protect the lives of so many Victorians. The commission reached out to thousands of victims and survivors of family violence, listening to their experiences, harnessing their knowledge and enabling them to shape the way forward. Her own direct experience with family violence, as Ms Wooldridge has pointed to, explored in the most infinite and confronting way by *Australian Story* last year and rebroadcast last week, informed and drove her groundbreaking work in this area.

Fiona drove much of Victoria's recent work to tackle family violence, and again I hope that the impact of this work will be experienced by Victorian families and communities for decades to come. This is her legacy. She died before her time and well before her work was done. The onus is now on every one of us to consider in a very deep way Fiona's values, motivations and vision in relation to gender equality and family violence, and to consider our own role in pursuing these goals. Our thoughts are with Fiona's family and friends in this difficult time and with her staff and members of her community.

Mr O'SULLIVAN (Northern Victoria) — On behalf of The Nationals I am honoured to speak in support of the condolence motion in memory of Fiona Richardson. In particular I wish to pass on my best wishes to Fiona's husband, Stephen Newnham, and their two children, Marcus and Catherine. To lose a wife and mother at such a tender age is absolutely tragic.

Stephen was the state secretary of the Labor Party when I was the state director of The Nationals. We fought the 2006 campaign together and I got to know Stephen quite well. The political conversations that they would have had around their dinner table would, I think, have been unrivalled anywhere. For Fiona to be born in Tanzania, come to Australia and forge the political career that she did following her university studies in politics and psychology demonstrates the determination she had to succeed in whatever she decided she wanted to do. Obviously her roles in the Labor Party and in the Australian Services Union were a factor in the career that Fiona forged. When she was the shadow Minister for Public Transport she was the architect of one of the significant policies of this government — the removal of 50 level crossings — and there is no doubt that that policy will leave a legacy for this city.

When the current government was elected to office in 2014 Fiona was appointed the Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence. As the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence Fiona oversaw one of the most important policies that this

government has worked on. The scourge of family violence in our society is intolerable and should not be acceptable in any circumstances. For the first time in this state a spotlight was shone very brightly on this issue and an awareness of the issue was brought into the light. Family violence was a hidden issue in our society, and without doubt Fiona's role has brought that out into the sunshine and people are now prepared to talk about it. As a result of the family violence policy administered by Fiona many women have found the courage to speak out and to seek help and many women and children are now safer in their homes. We should all thank Fiona for her role and dedication in making those families safer today.

On behalf of The Nationals I would like to thank Fiona Richardson for her commitment to serving the people of Victoria and thank her for the very important work that she did in the prevention of family violence. Rest in peace, Fiona Richardson.

Ms SHING (Eastern Victoria) — I rise to make a brief contribution to the chorus that will echo around the chamber today, and indeed around this Parliament, in celebrating, recognising and memorialising the life of Fiona Richardson. Fiona made a profound and unique contribution to the caucus, to the cabinet, to her immediate community, to the state and, thanks to the groundswell of which she was such a significant part, to women and children and families across Australia. The effects of her input and the work that she did will continue to ripple around the state for many years to come, and the level of care she showed to the causes she championed to her electorate and to those in our parliamentary community has set benchmarks that have already become the stuff of legend.

We will remember Fiona not only for the work that she did at the front and centre of her public role but for the tireless effort she put in over many, many years behind the scenes without any expectation of praise, reward or recognition. Her presence was truly undeniable, her focus often singular and her actions always disciplined, fearless and committed. Each of us has our own memories and experiences of Fiona, and these will be a source of reflection and of remembrance for us for a long time to come. But in making my contribution today I want to send my best wishes and love to her family — her mother, Veronica; her partner, Stephen; her brothers, Hamish and Alastair; and in particular, her children, Marcus and Catherine — and to wish them all of the support, love and sustenance that they need now and into the future. Theirs is such a huge and deep loss and my heart is with them. Fiona was a woman who through her actions and her words made a huge difference, and that difference will continue to shape the way we go about our own work. Vale.

Mr DALIDAKIS (Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade) —

The time you won your town the race
We chaired you through the marketplace;
Man and boy stood cheering by,
And home we brought you shoulder-high.

Fiona Richardson was nothing if not a competitor. If there was a debate to be had, an election to be won or a cause to be fought for, Fiona was always in it — directing it, taking up arms, doing what she always believed in. Fiona passed away two weeks ago, having succumbed to perhaps the first true loss of her life — her fight against cancer. Less than a year ago she turned 50, entering the sixth decade of her life, in which most people enjoy some of the greatest personal and professional successes. Life can be a magnificent gift — a canvas on which we can choose to strive to do so much, to flourish, to look not only after ourselves but after our loved ones and after people less fortunate than us. But life can also be cruel, taking from us so fleetingly some of our brightest sparks and our kindest and most compassionate friends and leaders.

Fiona's story encapsulates the spirit of the Labor Party — the spirit that has those of us who serve it do so to create a society that looks after the vulnerable and provides those with disadvantages far beyond their control with the opportunity to flourish and succeed. As Ms Wooldridge said, she lived Labor values.

Fiona was a woman who was born in some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. She, like one in four children in Australia, grew up in a household that experienced domestic violence, but she did not let those circumstances defeat her or weaken her. Importantly, she refused to let them define her. She rose past them. She carved out a life and a career for herself that defied them and, having ascended from those troubled beginnings, when the time was right she drew on them to ensure that children like hers would not have to overcome them. She was determined to make substantive, meaningful change to prevent family violence for generations to come. This very personal story ultimately became Fiona's very professional mission. It was the ultimate pursuit of her skills and passions, but it was by no means the only one. It is, however, one that will live on in her spirit in a way that so few of us will ever do in our lives.

For many of us in the Labor Party Fiona was our champion. She counted the numbers and she won the votes, and there are many in Australia's parliaments — and even in the Lodge or aspiring to get there — who owe their careers in no small part to the efforts of Fiona

Richardson. I too was someone she believed in, and I was appointed to the ministry thanks to her support.

For so many people in the community, Fiona was their champion — the people of Northcote, who knew her as a tireless worker for the local community, whether banging on other ministerial doors or doing the hard yards for the people she represented; the people of Victoria, who she served so well in this Parliament and in the cabinet; and perhaps most enduringly the women, children and, yes, men whose lives and families she did so much to protect from the evil of family violence.

Fiona could do the numbers, but she never did the numbers for her own sake. Fiona could win votes like few others, but it was never just in her own self-interest. Fiona took that skill, that knowledge and the machinery of this thing we call politics and put them to work for the good of so many others. She was never interested in power for power's sake; there always had to be an outcome. There always had to be a focus. There always had to be a reason, because otherwise Fiona was not interested.

In terms of family violence, Fiona knew that, along with her mother and her brothers, she had survived it, and she was determined not to just prevent or punish violent acts but to completely change our culture and our society in terms of how we approach violence in the home. Change can be confronting. Change challenges us. Change can always meet with resistance. For me as a man, Fiona's work and the work of those around her challenged me to re-examine my own assumptions, my implicit biases and my level of comfortable existence and to step outside my own privileged self and see what I might need to see in order to change.

As part of the party and the cabinet, Fiona challenged all of us to recognise the extent and depth of family violence in Victoria, and she never let us get away with second-best when it came to what needed to be done. Whilst I will not talk about what happens in cabinet — nor will I ever — you could be assured that in order to meet our appointments Fiona was always there making sure that that 50-50 promise in the 2014 election was one we continued to meet.

It is almost as if Fiona's entire life — her personal experience, her political skills and her personal qualities — was designed to prepare her for exactly this path. Politics has now become a profession, often one with a bad reputation. That goes for politicians too, and if we are all honest, we will admit that sometimes our reputations are deserved. There is sometimes no honour in politics for politics sake. There is no merit in victory or titles and offices if they do not produce real and

lasting benefits and changes within and for our community.

Fiona's legacy was all about the causes she fought for and the communities she connected to. Her support for my own community, the Jewish community, was an enduring one and another bond we shared. She always had a strong attachment to and affinity with immigrant communities and communities that had suffered injustice, especially the Jewish community. Fiona visited the death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau and travelled to Israel, both of which had a profound effect upon her. Fiona was always ready to combat anti-Semitism wherever it reared its ugly head. There was no moral equivalence when it came to Israel's right to defend itself as far as Fiona was concerned. Fiona truly belonged to a long tradition of Labor parliamentarians who supported and stood up for Israel at every opportunity. Her loss will be felt by those in the Jewish community who saw her put some of her tenacious qualities into practice in support of the Jewish state. Her presence at the Passover table of our dear friends Henry and Marcia Pinski will certainly be missed.

As I have noted in previous contributions, Fiona was an intensely private person, so I asked for permission from Veronica, her mother, to share the following anecdote. There was a very real chance that Fiona was in fact Jewish. I remember some of the conversations that Fiona and I had, including one such conversation prior to cabinet beginning when she sprung this revelation on me. The family had undertaken some genealogical research, and it was possible that her great-grandmother was in fact Jewish. Of course Judaism, as many would know, is carried through the mother, unless one chooses to convert. The excitement in her voice was contagious at the realisation that she may have been one of the tribe. The interesting thing for me was that she was so happy to become part of a community that has suffered so much throughout our history. At least she was prepared. It was the exploration of her past, her family history and quite possibly our common background that had me share in her excitement too. Like everything else Fiona did, she took you on her journey.

The respect and love that has poured out on Fiona's passing is testament to the fact that Fiona Richardson was no ordinary politician; she was an extraordinary one. It was my privilege to be a witness, as indeed we were all witnesses, to this extraordinary life and this extraordinary woman.

The Labor Party can often feel like a large sometimes unruly family. We squabble; we fight. There are reunions and triumphs, tragedies, jealousies and love.

To Fiona's family — her mother, Veronica; her brothers, Hamish and Alastair; her husband, Stephen; and her children, Catherine and Marcus — I say thank you. Thank you for allowing such a special part of your family to be a part of our family as well. Sometimes, she could not spend as much time with you as she would have liked. There were the long hours, the hard work and always something more important to do. But we could only ever borrow her because she was yours first and foremost, and she loved you all dearly. Thank you for sharing her with us. But let us be honest: it was no-one else's decision but Fiona's to do what she wanted. She would have not had it any other way. Now the time has passed when I can no longer thank her in person. Sadly, that is something that will haunt me for the rest of my life.

Our homes are safer because of Fiona Richardson, our children are more secure and our community is stronger for having known her and her service. Fiona did not just challenge others, she made us challenge ourselves. The remarkable work she did will live long beyond her passing. It is and will be a monument to her and it will be our memorial to end what she had begun. Goodbye, Fiona, our sister in unity, in Labor and in the service of our state and its people. We are better for having known you and better for you having let us be your friends, and now we are all poorer for your passing.

The time you won your town the race
We chaired you through the marketplace;
Man and boy stood cheering by,
And home we brought you shoulder-high.

Today, the road all runners come,
Shoulder-high we bring you home,
And set you at your threshold down,
Townsmen of a stiller town.

Vale.

Ms PATTEN (Northern Metropolitan) — I am honoured to rise to speak on this condolence motion put by the Leader of the Government. I feel somewhat nervous following such a wonderful contribution from Mr Dalidakis. That was incredibly beautiful, as have all the contributions been today. I too would like to offer my great sympathies to Fiona's mother, Veronica; her children, Marcus and Catherine; her husband, Stephen; and of course all the staff that she worked so closely with and her many friends and colleagues here today.

Vision, strength and courage are the words that we have heard today and that we have heard over the past weeks. In fact they were the words that we heard when she was alive. This was someone who we celebrated and who we recognised, not just after her untimely

death but while she was alive, for the significant work that she did. I think it is somewhat unusual in this place that we celebrate one of our colleagues and congratulate them on the work that they did for us all.

As the first Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, she was the driver and she was the instigator of that significant investment that we have seen put into ending this scourge of violence within our homes — to ending family violence. That work alone is going to save countless lives. I have kept reflecting over this past couple of weeks on the lives that she has saved and the lives that she will save. In the generations to come people will have a better life because of the work that Fiona has done for us.

I had the honour of attending her memorial celebration, as it were, and of hearing from her Labor colleagues just how fierce she was within her own party and how fierce around equality — so much so that, reflecting on what Stephen Bracks told us there, we probably would not have had the first female Prime Minister in Australia had it not been for Fiona Richardson and the work she did in bringing Julia Gillard to being elected.

When she spoke in her inaugural speech it was obvious that the Labor Party was part of her lifeblood, and it sounds like it was part of Veronica's as well. Fiona's passion for education, equality and justice started while she was at university and when she first joined the Labor Party, and then that work just continued.

On a personal level, I found her incredibly welcoming. When you are first elected here and you are a single-member party, there are not a lot of people that you feel that warmth from, and Fiona really did reach out. Certainly while we were doing the Public Health and Wellbeing (Safe Access Zones) Bill 2015 she reached out especially to me and was very warm and encouraging. I remember reflecting on how nervous I was at certain times, and she would talk about how nervous she used to be and how she would just take her shoes off. Now, given I do not have the height that Fiona had, I did not ever dare to take my high heels off, but Fiona would take her high heels off. I always watched her, and I noticed that when she was speaking with the Governor-General or with whatever dignitaries her shoes would be off beside her feet and her feet were just finding the ground and grounding her.

We have talked about that steely eye and that stoicism. I kept thinking of her as a swan that would be floating on the top so calm, so poised and so elegant, and yet you knew to be achieving what she was achieving she must have been doing night work and paddling under the water. She was also battling so many health issues

during that time, so her feet must have been paddling extraordinarily hard and we just did not see it.

The last time I saw her was during the Public Estimates and Accounts Committee hearings, and there I saw her stoicism. She was not well, like many of us at that time. We all thought it was the flu. She was not well, but she insisted on giving evidence and she insisted on being interviewed on that day, and that showed incredible strength. But now, with greater reflection on where she was at that time, I see that it showed her extraordinary sense of getting things done and achieving what she was setting out to achieve even if she may have known she did not have long to do that.

I reflect on the kindness that she gave to me, and I reflect on the wonderful speeches that Jane Garrett and Ken Lay gave at the memorial service, where they spoke about her strength and support when they were also battling cancer. She was keeping very private about herself, but she gave others strength and support. We all strive to do the same, but I do not think any of us could achieve it quite like she did.

In reflecting on where she was going and the tasks that she has left us — and she has left us many — I know that we will continue with those tasks. I think she would have loved to have heard that Northcote High School has started a program 'Respect starts with me'. It will be run by the young women at Northcote High and it was inspired by Fiona Richardson.

She has inspired us all. I think she was a spiritual person. She believed in the interconnectedness of us all, and she believed that her soul would be here. I believe that she has given us a task to continue, and I for one will try to do that. Vale, Fiona Richardson.

Dr CARLING-JENKINS (Western Metropolitan) — I rise to support the Leader of the Government's condolence motion and to speak and reflect briefly on behalf of the Australian Conservatives on the passing of Minister Fiona Richardson. I wish to extend my sympathies to Fiona's family, her friends and her colleagues within the ALP and indeed across this chamber. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.

I did not know Minister Richardson very well, but what I do know is this: she was brave, compassionate and well suited to her role as the first Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence. She shared her vulnerability and her lived experience of family violence and used this as a strength to inform her work. When others like myself shared their stories of domestic violence with her, she responded instantly —

with empathy, sensitivity and warmth. I feel honoured to have met Fiona, to have taken the time to swap stories with her and to have felt the bond of sisterhood shared only by survivors of violence.

I am devastated that she is lost to this world and to her family all too soon. My prayers are with her family, especially her mother, Veronica, her husband, Stephen Newnham, and her two children, Marcus and Catherine. May you all find strength in each other at what must be the most difficult of times. Rest in peace, Fiona Richardson.

Ms MIKAKOS (Minister for Families and Children) — I too rise to make a contribution in honour of the late Fiona Richardson. We are not the sum total of what we do in this place. There is obviously far more that goes on for every member of Parliament in terms of their family, and of course that was also the case with Fiona Richardson. She was obviously very proud to be a wife and a mother, and the photographs that we saw at the state memorial service late last week very much focused on her role as a parent and as a partner.

We are I guess bookended, in terms of our lives as parliamentarians, by our inaugural speeches and, sadly, condolence speeches such as these here today. I had the opportunity to go back and read Fiona's inaugural speech that she made on 19 December 2006, in which she spoke about the Labor values that drove her — and, I think, drove her throughout her parliamentary career. In her inaugural speech she referenced the foundation of the Labor Party back in the 1890s really coming out of the union movement in Queensland. She talked about how a passion for justice drove Labor governments. I think it is worth quoting from that speech. She said:

We believe that individual prosperity should not be dependent upon your postcode; that the claims of the few do not override the needs of the many; that everyone has the right to be treated fairly in the workplace; that difference should be treated with tolerance; that universal health care is a right not a privilege; and that every person has the opportunity to share in the wealth of the community and to reach their full potential.

She went on to talk about how this debt of justice is the lifeblood of the Labor Party. I think that quote really speaks volumes about Fiona's values, which I believe she lived every day.

In one of her local papers, the *Northcote Leader*, she gave an interview in April 2014 — she had been battling breast cancer and had just come out the other side of that initial cancer treatment — where she talked about how her cancer treatment had given her a new perspective on the job. She talked about how her cancer

treatment experience had taught her that there should not be any differences in health care. She went on to say in that interview, 'Why should someone who can afford to pay get better treatment?'. I think that speaks to Fiona's values — that she took from her experience with the health system and her experiences with cancer treatment reflections on how we can improve the health system. Really it was a demonstration of her true passion for that Labor value of justice and making sure that everybody, no matter their background or circumstance, has the opportunity to get equal access to services, in this case health services.

Fiona has been acknowledged by many as being a trailblazer, and she was a trailblazer in many respects — of course being the first Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence appointed in Australia — but for many of us on the Labor side, including myself, we knew Fiona's history in the Labor Party. She was a trailblazer in the Labor Party as well. I first got to know Fiona before she became a member of Parliament in her trailblazing role as a factional secretary. She trod a path in positions in the Labor Party that very few women have trod, including as a powerbroker in the right of the Labor Party, as secretary of Labor Unity. She was acknowledged as a fearless person in that role. I have got many colleagues here nodding their heads. She was fearless. She took no hostages, she was a fierce negotiator and she had quite a formidable reputation by the time she came into this Parliament.

There have been few women who have engaged in the dark arts of politics to date. There have been a few, but there have not been all that many, so I think it is important to acknowledge Fiona's role in that sense as well. The Premier referred in the last sitting week to men in smoke-filled rooms, and I think it has really been the efforts of Fiona and many others in the sisterhood — in the Labor Party that I am a very proud member of — that have broken down some of the culture and the barriers that have really been unwelcoming to women seeking political office and to play important roles in the party over time.

I guess her passion as a person in the party machine was to support and encourage other women, and that is something that I have also striven to do as much as I can as well. She was a trailblazer in that sense. I know that she was very passionate about supporting other women. Therefore it was very appropriate, I thought, that she was appointed to the women's portfolio when we came into government in this term. Of course she played an important role in the family violence reforms that have been championed by our Premier.

Fiona has left an enormous legacy to this state, and that relates to her very important role in overseeing the work of Australia's first Royal Commission into Family Violence and the work that has flowed on since that time. She ensured that we had the Parliament painted orange as a symbol for all of us as we worked towards a Victoria Against Violence. It was great to see members of Parliament across the political divide stand on the front steps with Fiona, the Premier and others as we sought to eradicate family violence from our society.

Fiona was very proud to have developed Australia's first gender equality strategy. That will play a very important role in terms of changing the way we as a government deliver services and how we can ensure there is equality of opportunity. Minister Dalidakis has also referred to her absolute passion for making sure that we have more women appointed to boards and that women play an important role in leadership positions across our society. The list of achievements are many, and Fiona was very passionate to ensure that that work would continue.

The Leader of the Government has referred to emissaries, and I certainly know that Fiona worked very hard to make sure there was strong support right across the government to ensure that these family violence reforms would continue — and of course they will. We owe it to every woman and every child in this state that this unfinished business is done and that we have a society free of violence. I echo the words of the Premier in acknowledging that with the work that has already been put in place by Fiona and others women and children in our state are safer. That is something that Fiona's family should be extremely proud of.

At a local level Fiona was a tireless advocate for her constituents in Northcote. She was elected in November 2006 and re-elected in November 2010 and in November 2014. During her service as the member for Northcote for a little bit over a decade her local achievements were many. She worked to ensure that our local schools had upgrades, in particular Croxton Special School and Northcote High School.

There were many other projects that she was involved in. Every time I drive through St Georges Road in Northcote I will think of Fiona, because she was responsible for removing a notorious bottleneck towards the southern part of St Georges Road where multiple roads meet and the tramline goes through as well. She was able to make significant improvements to that key bottleneck in our community. She was tireless in advocating for the duplication of the Chandler

Highway bridge, and when completed that project will be a lasting legacy of hers as well.

She was also involved in advocating as shadow Minister for Public Transport for significant reforms, which as a government we have implemented, relating to level crossing removals. The work is already underway at the level crossing at Grange Road in Alphington, and there will be a very significant improvement for Fiona's constituents when that project is complete.

I know that Fiona was very proud of the diversity of the Northcote electorate and she talked about that in her inaugural speech. Having had the opportunity to visit with her many local ethnic senior citizens groups over the years, I know how much she enjoyed mixing with other migrant communities. My community, the local Greek community, were very welcoming and embraced Fiona with a great deal of enthusiasm. The local Italian community and many others had a great deal of respect and affection for Fiona. She did see herself, having come from a migrant family as well, as sharing their history, that common history, and understanding the various challenges that migrants do face in coming to Australia. She had that shared bond with them.

I know that Fiona was particularly proud of the fact that Darebin has the largest Indigenous community in Melbourne. She worked very closely with the Aborigines Advancement League, based in Thornbury, and supported local Aboriginal people passionately to be able to get access to better services but also, in the spirit of self-determination, to make sure that they were masters of their own destiny. I particularly want to refer to a media release that was issued by the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association on the news of Fiona Richardson's passing away. They said in this media release:

Fiona Richardson was a champion for Aboriginal people both in her electorate of Northcote and in her portfolios at the state level. Fiona devoted her time to developing strong working relationships with leaders in the Aboriginal community and could be trusted to respond sensitively to Aboriginal community needs.

In this release they particularly referred to being grateful for Fiona's advocacy in securing \$250 000 in funding for the development of a Koori centre of excellence at the Sir Douglas Nicholls Oval in Thornbury, which will be used as an education and training facility for Aboriginal young people. They were very grateful for her support. I know that she worked very closely with them, the Aborigines Advancement League, the Fitzroy Stars Football Club and many other local Aboriginal organisations during

her time as a member of Parliament. In terms of working with Aboriginal communities, she was very passionate about ensuring that we could learn from Aboriginal communities who are doing very innovative things in terms of service delivery to Aboriginal families, including rolling out family violence reforms and making sure we can support Aboriginal organisations to support and work with victim survivors in their own communities.

There are many things that we should be grateful to Fiona for in relation to the legacy she left to the Labor Party, to the people of Northcote and to the people in our state of Victoria in terms of the things that she achieved. I am particularly grateful to her for the courage that she and her family demonstrated in speaking publicly about their own personal experience of family violence. I was absolutely speechless watching the *Australian Story* program last year. I took the opportunity at the state memorial service last week to thank her mother, Veronica, and her brothers, Hamish and Alastair, and of course to reiterate my condolences to them. I think it was a very brave thing that they did, to share such a personal story with the world, but I do think it has given victim survivors greater confidence to be able to share their own stories too — the sense that this is a common experience sadly shared by so many in our society. It is important that they were able to see someone who was elected to such a high office who had had that experience herself as a child.

I express my sincerest sympathies to Stephen Newnham, to Catherine and Marcus, to Veronica, to Hamish and to Alastair; to Fiona's electorate office staff, Marion, Teresa and Oscar; to her ministerial staff, Tanja and many others; and to all her family and friends. Fiona passed away far too early, but I am grateful for what she was able to achieve while she was with us.

Mr SOMYUREK (South Eastern Metropolitan) — It is with a heavy heart that I join this condolence motion in honour of my friend Fiona Richardson. The term 'my friend' is not a phrase that would have sat easily for the majority of the time that Fiona and I knew each other, for we have been more sub-factional rivals than friends for the greater part of this time. But I am proud to say that for the last two and a half years of her life I can well and truly describe Fiona Richardson as a friend — and for that I am grateful. I will explain a little later how our friendship developed, and that anecdote will provide a powerful insight into Fiona's character.

I first met Fiona in the mid to late 1990s, when she worked in the electorate office of the Honourable Gareth Evans in Dandenong. Even back then she struck me as an intelligent, strong and determined woman who was destined to go places. Fiona's achievements in public life — as an MP, as a parliamentary secretary, as a shadow minister and then subsequently as a minister — would make any MP proud. Her contribution to public policy has been revolutionary. That is a side of Fiona that has rightly been acknowledged and celebrated here today but also since her passing two weeks ago.

However, there was another side to Fiona Richardson's political engagement that needs to be put on the public record, particularly as she became such a champion for women's rights — that is, Fiona Richardson, the groundbreaking female backroom powerbroker in an era almost exclusively dominated by alpha males. I know Ms Mikakos touched on that — and I am glad she did, because I did not want to be the only one. But I feel I am perfectly placed to tell that story in this place.

Ms Mikakos — As an alpha male.

Mr SOMYUREK — No, as a person that has been there. The story of Fiona Richardson the factional powerbroker is almost as impressive as her achievements in public office, given the male egos and landmines she was forced to so adroitly navigate in that role. As a factional operator Fiona's résumé can boast the following achievements: facilitating the preselection of Australia's first woman Prime Minister, facilitating the preselection of Australia's next Labor Prime Minister and perhaps a dozen or so right-wing MPs in this Parliament, including a gentleman in this place, Mr Philip Dalidakis. Furthermore, Fiona played a key role in giving the Bracks-Brumby governments confidence in pursuing a rich but pragmatic policy agenda knowing that their organisational wing, Labor Unity, which were in the ascendancy, had their back.

As factional secretary to the dominant Labor Unity faction it was Fiona's role to facilitate and manage the disparate groupings that formed the right faction in Victoria. This was no easy feat as it required achieving consensus decision-making between quite often warring sub-faction leaders and powerful union secretaries each with their own demands, and these demands would quite often conflict with the demands of other subgroupings. The protagonists of the right faction during this time were forceful characters. They were no shrinking violets. They were people such as Bill Shorten, Stephen Conroy, Robert Ray, Greg Sword — and the list goes on — and rough and tumble union secretaries who believed that they were the only

legitimate source of power in the ALP and therefore that their demands ought to be given primacy over all else.

The way it works in the leadership of factions, particularly male-dominated factions, is that groupings normally state a position and declare that they will not be moving from their position and the rest of the faction can go get nicked, or more colourful language to that effect. When every grouping takes this bellicose stance invariably a long and intractable impasse follows which can destroy a faction without intervention. This is where Fiona Richardson was in her element. As everyone retreated into their respective corners she would somehow remarkably come out with a fix — a consensus position which left the faction intact.

Fiona of course was not just a great facilitator for the faction — that is, she was not just some benign, soft and cuddly, nurturing figure keeping everyone together. Much to our chagrin she was also a smart, hardened and formidable factional powerbroker in her own right, building her own empire under the noses of the factional alpha males, and I might add running rings around them. Sub-factional politics need not be, but quite often is perceived to be, a zero-sum game. Therefore from our perspective at the time Fiona prospered where we missed out. By the time Fiona Richardson entered Parliament in 2006 she could claim to have played a significant role in the preselection of a large number of right-wing MPs into this place, but being in Parliament did not stop her influence outside the Parliament, because she continued to have influence on which right-wing MPs came into this place.

Just because Fiona and I were now parliamentary colleagues did not mean that we all of a sudden became allies. Our factional rivalry was at this time played out in Spring Street. This was most pronounced after the right went through a tumultuous public split in 2008. From that point until our rapprochement two and half years ago Fiona and I convened separate right-wing factions which were mutually distrustful of one another in this place. So far I have talked a lot about how Fiona and I were factional rivals, but I also need to put on record that it was not personal. In fact Fiona and I never exchanged a nasty word in anger.

I recall an occasion a number of years ago in the middle of the split when I was pushing for the unification of the right in this place, probably because I had made the assessment that it would have favoured my sub-faction and she was resisting, probably because she was on to what I was trying to do, Fiona and I had a marathon meeting to talk about unification on the balcony on a balmy November night. That meeting seemed to go on

for about three and a half hours. For three and a half hours I tried everything — persuasive rational argument, flattery, appealing to her past contribution to building the right — but nothing worked. She was engaging, witty and philosophical, but even though she appeared to indicate she was about to give way she did not give an inch in the three and a half hours that we had those discussions. Being a student of psychology I know she would have walked away from that chuckling and thinking that she had a bit of fun playing with my mind.

Theo Theophanous, in his tribute to Fiona in the *Herald Sun* last week, talked about her loyalty and unwavering support for those she believed in, and I quote from Mr Theophanous's article:

For me, personally, perhaps the most amazing thing about Fiona is the loyalty and unswerving support she showed to me in my most difficult time. A time when others urged her to create distance between us. I remember her saying to me, 'Theo, you know who you are and I know who you are. You are not who they say you are. Don't let them redefine you'.

I also had a similar experience with Fiona, an experience so powerful for me that as a result of that experience all past rivalries were set aside and a friendship was cemented in its place. It was the first caucus back from let us just call it 'my saga'. There was a lot of media interest around me personally. Therefore the media were waiting outside our caucus room to get photos of Labor MPs but of me in particular. As the meeting concluded Fiona Richardson came rushing up to me and said, 'Come on, you're walking out with me'. As I hesitated, bewildered, thinking 'What the hell is she up to?', she noticed my apprehension and said, 'Don't you get it, silly? I am the Minister for Women. I have known you for a long time, I think this whole thing is crap and I'm backing you — you are walking out with me'.

I was truly moved by her brave and defiant gesture of support in walking out of that room with me, shoulder to shoulder, for I knew that she was taking a grave political risk — so grave that not many people in this place would have dared to take it. Let us put that into context. She was taking a grave political risk for a person who had done nothing, absolutely nothing, to enhance her political career over the previous 20 years or so that I had known her.

After our rapprochement Fiona's interest in factional matters seemed to diminish a great deal. I would often try to get her to engage in matters factional but to no avail. Her standard response would be, 'I'll leave all that stuff to you now'. It became clear to me that she had found a higher purpose to galvanise her sharp

intellect, tenacity and energy, and that was the issue of the prevention of family violence. Her extraordinary innate qualities combined with her grounding in the rough and tumble of factional politics made her the best person to tackle such a daunting task. Having dealt with and stood up to the likes of Robert Ray, Stephen Conroy and Bill Shorten with her steely resolve, I could not imagine any department secretary or any unwarranted bureaucracy getting in her way.

Victoria's and indeed our nation's women are now safer and more empowered because of Fiona's work and passion. Our culture will in time, because of Fiona, respect and treat fairly and equally women in our homes, in our schools and in our workplaces. Genuine equality can be achieved as a result of our former Minister for Women and, I am proud to say, my friend, Fiona Richardson. Vale, Fiona Richardson.

Ms CROZIER (Southern Metropolitan) — I also rise in support of the government's motion on the Honourable Fiona Richardson. To Fiona's family, Stephen, Marcus and Catherine, to her mother and brothers and indeed to her entire family, I extend my condolences to you all at this very sad time.

Much has already been said about Fiona Richardson — about her upbringing, her education, her forging her way into politics and her many achievements, in particular with the work she has done in the area of family violence — but I would like to speak to the motion by providing a few of my reflections of Fiona. I really only got to know Fiona following her appointment as the first Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence and my appointment as the shadow minister in this area. I cannot say I really knew Fiona in the previous Parliament, as I was in this house and had different responsibilities. Of course I did not know her in the same way as her colleagues, her staff and those she worked very closely with, but our relationship I believe was a good and mutually respectful one. It was one where I could speak or text with her freely — and we did. Fiona would on occasion text or speak with me to inform me of some announcement or initiative that she was leading, so I was very appreciative when Fiona reached out to me just a few weeks after her being appointed as the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence. Our first meeting in Strangers was over a cup of tea and was a very open one — and her cups of tea were spoken about very fondly in the state memorial service last week. We discussed how we could work together in a bipartisan way on many of the issues at hand, whether that was family violence or women's affairs, and on how we could work together to get the message out about family violence.

On one occasion I recall Fiona coming to my office, one I shared with Mr Ondarchie — and I think, Craig, you will recall this. Fiona came down with an array of handwritten messages that she wanted us to use for social media. She wanted not only a message from both of us but for all members of Parliament to share in the message of keeping women and children safe at Christmas time. Christmas time can be a very vulnerable time for many women and children and is a time of heightened family violence incidents. I know many of you joined with her to get that important message out as we held signs with her and took photos to tweet or post on Facebook.

Victoria Against Violence was another campaign that she was very passionate about, and she got that message out at any opportunity. She initiated the symbolic gesture of landmarks across Melbourne being lit up in orange to raise awareness of family violence. Our own Parliament was lit up in orange, and I, together with Fiona and many other MPs, stood together as the lights were switched on. Fiona said at the time, 'Lighting the Victorian Parliament sends a clear message that our state stands together when it comes to addressing family violence'.

I do not think anyone in this chamber would disagree with the notion of wanting to do what we can to end the scourge of family violence. Governments at all levels are addressing the issue and building on initiatives of previous governments. The horrific events that we all read or hear about in our news outlets of the violence that is committed is one thing, but it is the stories that come into our office and the people we meet who tell of their horrendous accounts of violence that drive us all to want to make Victoria a better and safer place. And that was Fiona's very clear and evident determination in her role as minister in this important area.

Last week's state memorial service for Fiona was attended by an array of people from across Victoria, including from her own local community of Northcote. We heard stories from those who spoke about her courage and determination. Northcote's Regal Ballroom was packed with those wanting to pay their respects and pay tribute to a woman who was widely admired and respected. Those who attended the service included of course those who loved and cared for her, those who had worked with her in many different aspects of politics and government and those constituents she had touched by having advocated and worked on their behalf in her local community. There were also many people who were victims and survivors of family violence along with people within the family violence sector who had been working with her on a range of policy areas.

The tributes by the Honourable Steve Bracks and the Honourable Jane Garrett were wonderful with the heartfelt way they described the respect, love and friendship they had for her, telling the stories about a woman who was greatly admired within the Labor movement and clearly a dear and close friend to many. The very moving account by Jane of their shared battle of having that insidious disease, breast cancer, was very real and described the comfort Fiona gave Jane at such a difficult time. I think that was who Fiona was: she was real, and it was obvious that she comforted many.

As was said in the tributes on Thursday, she was a woman who was caring and compassionate. She had humility, and she was a fierce advocate and champion for improving the lives of women and children. She was a woman who was prepared to go the extra mile, and she certainly did that by sharing her own family's experience of family violence on the ABC's *Australian Story*, which was a very courageous thing for Fiona and her family to do. It is these real stories that people connect to, and Fiona did that. She connected, and she also followed through when she could.

As has been said by many in here and by commentators and ordinary Victorians who have reached out through their grief following the death of Fiona, Fiona's legacy is one that will be remembered by Victoria and by many Victorians. Fiona achieved so much, and it is what she achieved and her legacy that her entire family can be so very proud of.

Mr ONDARCHIE (Northern Metropolitan) — Today I rise to pay tribute to the Honourable Fiona Richardson. Mr Elasmar first introduced me to Fiona, shortly after my election in 2010, at a local community event, and we struck a chord. Fiona, as the member for Northcote in the Assembly, and I, as a representative of Northern Metropolitan Region, often worked together representing and advocating for Melbourne's north. We spoke often of our constituents' needs, and despite our differing politics we always focused on the residents first above all else.

To me, Fiona Richardson was a really nice person. We shared a passion for Melbourne's north, and I admired Fiona's commitment to her public life, her unwavering integrity and her determined work to protect women and children. Fondly, I loved Fiona's commitment to supporting Guide Dogs Victoria, particularly in their need to ensure that the realignment of the Chandler Highway bridge in Alphington also protected the needs of Guide Dogs Victoria. The Dogs Unite community fundraising walk was a special time. My wife and I joined Fiona, her daughter, Catherine, and her mum, Veronica, for a lovely puppy-accompanied walk around

Hays Paddock in Kew East. As a Guide Dogs Victoria ambassador I always valued the time she gave to us and her commitment to blind and visually impaired Victorians.

Fiona was a special person, and she will always remain in our hearts. Her passing should remind all of us how much this life, this opportunity, is a blessing. Our work as members of Parliament often means that we sacrifice so much — our time, and our time with our loved ones. If there is any message that I took out of the memorial service last week, it is that we should all find time in our very, very busy diaries to spend time with our loved ones. To those of you who are parents, go home and hug your children. To those of you who have close ones beside you, go and hug them or make a phone call. Spend time with your loved ones. The thoughts, love and prayers of the Ondarchie family are with Fiona's husband, Stephen; her children, Marcus and Catherine; her mum, Veronica; and her extended family, her friends and her colleagues at this very sad time.

Fiona Richardson, thank you. Rest peacefully.

Mr MELHEM (Western Metropolitan) — I also rise to pay tribute to the Honourable Fiona Richardson. Fiona was one of the stalwarts of the Australian Labor Party. I first met Fiona over 20 years ago. Mr Somyurek, Mr Dalidakis and Ms Mikakos touched on her role in the administrative wing of the Labor Party and the various roles she occupied, particularly when she was the Labor Unity faction secretary. I had the pleasure of working with her for a number of years on that. Thank God she was our faction secretary! I used to feel sorry for the left when Fiona negotiated with them about various issues, because she could be a bit fiery if she believed in something. But there was always that thing in the back of her mind — consensus. She always wanted to get consensus, and that used to drive me nuts. I used to say to Fiona, 'What happens if we don't get consensus? We've got to make a decision. We've got to take a vote'. Her line was consensus. I discovered why: when you do not have the numbers, consensus is a good thing because you do not get done over.

She always balanced the interests of many against the interests of individuals and the few, and she always had the interests of the Labor Party and the greater good in the back of her mind, and that is what really drove Fiona. In some of the internal meetings of the Labor Unity group when we had agreed on something but then we had some dissent when people did not really want to go along with it, they would cop it from Fiona. You just had to look the other way, because you really did not want to cop it from Fiona Richardson. She was

very determined, she was very loyal, and if she had given you her loyalty, you knew you had it for life. She used to argue like hell with people who tried to deviate from a particular resolution we had been carried and who tried to change things.

I want to cherish the time I had with Fiona over the years. What Fiona delivered is an inspiration for all the young girls coming through schools and universities. They can look and say — and I think Ms Wooldridge talked about this earlier — ‘A person can make it all the way; a woman can actually make it all the way’. Fiona had no fear whatsoever. She was prepared to execute her argument and her case against big men, powerful men. She had no fear at all. She argued her case. If she came up with an idea, or if it was a group idea, she would not leave a stone unturned until she got the right outcome. What actually drove her, I think, throughout her political life was, ‘What is the right thing to do?’. That drove her whole political career.

I finish off by saying that politicians love to be loved. Some of them are hated, and no-one wants to be hated. But love Fiona or hate Fiona, you definitely had to respect Fiona. That is very important. If you want to be a successful politician, you would rather be respected. I know some politicians like to be loved and no-one wants to be hated, but definitely Fiona was respected, not just by the Labor Party but by the Liberal Party, the Greens and all the parties in the Victorian Parliament. That is a great thing for a politician to achieve — to be respected by everyone. That was Fiona Richardson.

Thank you, Fiona, for sharing your life with us. My deepest condolences go to her family. May she rest in peace.

Mr BOURMAN (Eastern Victoria) — I rise to support the motion moved by Mr Jennings and offer our condolences to Fiona’s family, friends and colleagues.

Ms SYMES (Northern Victoria) — What a lovely tribute our house is paying to the Honourable Fiona Richardson today. Fiona leaves a legacy in the Labor Party, in the Parliament, in the government and in the electorate of Northcote. She was strong-minded, as we have heard. She was a passionate advocate and was known as a formidable politician within the ALP ranks. I personally recall some rather passionate discussions with Fiona when I first worked for the Labor Party. I was a mere junior caucus liaison officer, and she often lamented to me about the justice system and questioned why it was not easier, better and fairer for victims of crime and their families. As a caucus liaison officer I

was terrified of her, and I always promised to do what I could do.

It was Fiona’s tireless commitment to tackling injustice and standing up for people that made her a perfect fit for the role of the first Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence. I can say I was no longer scared of her when I was working side by side with her; it was a pleasure to do so. I am very proud of her and the work she has done. We must all promise the women and children that we will continue her fight and the work she started.

Fiona’s memorial service was a beautiful testament to her. Despite their grief, I hope that her family, especially Stephen, Marcus and Catherine, were bursting with pride. My thoughts have been with her staff too — Tanja and the team and those in the electorate office. To work for someone so passionate you have to be committed to the cause, and I know there are many feminist hearts that broke with the news of her passing. I will soon head out to buy more purple clothing because I did not do well by her at her memorial service. I had mere burgundy on, but I am heading out to join the ranks of the purple wave.

Fiona will be remembered fondly for her courage, her determination, her compassion, her love of vegan organic food and her bare feet. We are more for having known her.

Ms BATH (Eastern Victoria) — I rise today to add my voice to the condolence motion honouring the Honourable Fiona Richardson. I know my colleague Luke O’Sullivan has expressed condolences on behalf of The Nationals, but I would like to add my voice because although Fiona and I were vastly different — we came from different electorates, different parties and different houses — I feel somehow a connection to her that I will talk about in a moment.

I met Fiona on a very cold and rainy night back in May 2015 when Ms Crozier, Ms Wooldridge and I attended the Safe Steps candlelight vigil. That was the year that Rosie Batty was Australian of the Year. Fiona made a speech down at Federation Square in which she outlined the startling and shocking statistics around violence against women and families — how women die on a weekly basis at the hands of perpetrators. But she also had a strong, clear voice and a strong, clear message that this was not okay, that it would never be okay and that we need to continue to turn the tide against family violence. I am really pleased to see that in the electorate of Eastern Victoria Region there is a voice in many different areas, through the White Ribbon association as well as agencies and women’s

movements. It was good to meet Fiona then, and probably since that time I have only said hello or nodded to her in the corridors. But it seemed to me she was a very real person, and that is what is coming through this afternoon. She lived her life as her heart dictated and was very smart in doing so.

Fiona's challenging upbringing at the hands of her father is well known. But to my mind what has come through today too is the love, support and strength that she got from her siblings and her mother, Veronica, and that really galvanised her into becoming a champion for good, for positive change and for the women's movement.

I will take this opportunity, and I hope she will not mind, to say I think it is a sign that we should all listen to our bodies and seek medical help as required. Cancer does not discriminate. Yes, there are toxins and carcinogens that people are exposed to in their workplaces and the like, but it also seems to strike randomly, and no matter how hard we fight, sometimes we cannot overcome it. I believe that was her journey, even though she fought against it. In truth, that experience is one that many people have in their families.

We were born in the same year and we attended the same university, where we also studied psychology together. I may have rubbed up against her in the student union at some stage without knowing. But what I feel for her and her family at the moment is that I have two children that I can hug tonight, but her children will not be able to do that, and her husband will not be able to touch her hand. I hope that in these hard times they can draw on the deep love that she gave in her life with them and they can find the courage to go on and live a good and true life without her but with her memory always travelling with them. My wish for her is that she rest in peace.

Mr MULINO (Eastern Victoria) — It is very daunting to speak so late in proceedings such as these when so many people have spoken so many eloquent words with so much power beforehand and when so many of them knew Fiona and worked with her over decades. I will just say from the outset that I want to echo all of the very eloquent contributions before mine and I will add very marginally to them based upon my experiences with her so as to pay my respects to her legacy and to pay my condolences to her family.

It was very difficult for me when I was thinking about how to characterise the contribution of somebody whose efforts spanned decades, whose work touched on almost every realm of public policy and much of whose

work will leave a legacy beyond the public glare. When I was trying to think about Fiona's contribution in a holistic sense, I was reminded of the somewhat irreverent words of Tony Benn, the British politician, who said that there are three types of politicians: the maddies, the fixers and the straight men. The maddies are the big-picture thinkers and reformers, the fixers are the people who do the deals and build the numbers to achieve outcomes and the straight men and women are the people who worry about process. I think that most politicians are probably fixers who take offence at being called straight women and straight men but who dream of being maddies. Like all of us, Fiona was a combination of all these three archetypes, but I think she was much more the trailblazer than the conformist.

I met Fiona over a decade ago at a Labor Party meeting. I might say at this point that when I was drafting these words I erred on the side of discretion. I was originally going to say 'a faction meeting', but then I thought I would say, 'a Labor Party meeting'. From the candour of a number of speakers before me, I think that it is probably not unparliamentary at this point to be frank and say that it was at a faction meeting that I met her. She chaired that meeting and corralled over 100 unruly people across a range of sub-factions and walks of life. When she needed to be she was the consummate fixer. As Steve Bracks noted at Fiona's memorial service, her backroom dealings have been responsible for facilitating some of our party's most celebrated careers, including many ministers in this Parliament and indeed our nation's first female Prime Minister. As Minister Dalidakis pointed out, those dealings were not for their own sake; they were for important greater good.

But Fiona was much more than that. She was a big-picture thinker and she worked on the greatest of canvases. I ran into Fiona again some years later in Strangers Corridor while she was the shadow Minister for Public Transport, and she spoke with much passion about the level crossings removal program that she was working on as shadow minister. That has since become a centrepiece of this government's response to population growth and congestion. Of course, as others have outlined at great length, she then became Australia's first Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence and successfully managed a royal commission and the subsequent government response that have seen this government devote more resources and energy into eradicating family violence than all before it combined. Her determination in successfully prosecuting this agenda was all the more remarkable given her difficult personal connections with that issue and the debilitating illness that she was fighting throughout much of that period.

I might also just reflect on the fact that as much as she worked on a very big canvas, it is not just her significant short-term achievements — the funding, the resources, the profile. What she will leave is something that not many politicians leave, and that is a truly lasting legacy. Many of the changes that she has championed have led to genuine cultural change and genuine acceptance of the need for change across all parties of this Parliament. In that sense they are changes that not only are significant but will be truly long-lasting. When reflecting on and celebrating the life of a person in the public eye there is a tendency to separate the public contribution and legacy of the person on the one hand and their personal life on the other. In my short time in this place it has become clear to me that the two are deeply entwined.

Speakers at Fiona's memorial service thanked her family for sharing her with us. Given how much she gave to her party, to this Parliament and to the broader community, that is very appropriate. I think it is also important to acknowledge that in addition to sharing with us, they also shared her journey with her and undoubtedly made a very significant contribution to all that she achieved. I conclude by passing on my condolences to Fiona's mother, Veronica, to her partner, Stephen, and of course to her children, Catherine and Marcus. You should be very proud of what your daughter, your wife and your mother has achieved. Vale, Fiona Richardson.

The PRESIDENT — I intend to just make a few very brief remarks, because today we have heard many tributes and reflections on the life and contribution of the Honourable Fiona Richardson. I would hope that her family, her friends and those people she has touched in her life have received some comfort and nourishment in their memories and their lives from some of the contributions made today in this place and from those that were made at the memorial service last week.

Mr Mulino quoted a British politician who observed that there are three types of people. I will provide another observation, which I have made in the past, and that is, again, that there are three types of people: there are those who make things happen, there are those who watch things happen and there are those who wonder, 'What happened?'. Fiona Richardson was obviously a person who made things happen. It is very clear that she was not a bystander who simply watched, and I think it is very obvious to us all from the reflections that have been made today and at other times that she was also clearly not a person who was left wondering.

Fiona Richardson was a remarkable and inspirational woman, as we have heard, who has left a very significant legacy for Victorians, for Australians and I think, given our role in the global community, for many even further afield than that. I suggest that for those of us who care to put aside our prejudices and our personal limitations we can find a lot of inspiration in each other — something that we do not always recognise. Perhaps we should spend a little time honouring Fiona Richardson by looking to each other for some of that inspiration as well.

I join in debate on this condolence motion in thinking of and praying for Fiona's partner, her children, her mother, her brothers and indeed the very many people that she touched in an all-too-brief life.

It is now my intention to put to the test the condolence motion moved by the Leader of the Government.

Mr Jennings moved:

That this house expresses its sincere sorrow at the death, on Wednesday, 23 August 2017, of the Honourable Fiona Richardson, MP, and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by her to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Northcote from 2006 to 2017, Minister for Women from 2014 to 2017 and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence from 2014 to 2017.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The PRESIDENT — As a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Fiona Richardson the house will be suspended for the remainder of the sitting day. As I am about to leave the chair, I indicate that there are facilities available to members who feel they need to talk to somebody at this time. Given that Fiona Richardson was a minister in the service of the Parliament and that her death has been so sudden and tragic for us, there is, as I said, an opportunity for additional support.

With members standing in their places we will recognise a minute's silence out of respect for the member.

Honourable members stood in their places.

The PRESIDENT — The house stands adjourned until 9.30 a.m. tomorrow.

House adjourned 2.00 p.m.

