



Speech by

GARY FENLON

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard 27 August 1998

MRS L. SAUNDERS; BRISBANE COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Mr FENLON (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.27 a.m.): I wish to raise two matters in the Parliament. The first is that it is my sad duty to inform the House that this week saw the passing of Lola Marie Saunders in Yeppoon. Lola was born in Sydney on 30 September 1926 of solid Labor stock. Lola's father was a foundation member of the Leichhardt branch of the Australian Labor Party. Lola was married for 52 years to her surviving husband, Gordon. Lola and Gordon raised a fine family of six children—five boys and one girl. All of her children have been successful in their respective fields of endeavour. This is in no small way due to the strength and support of their mother. As her parents did for her, Lola instilled in all her children a strong sense of fairness and social justice. Just as Lola and her husband Gordon have made service to the community an intrinsic part of their lives, so their children have followed them.

Lola had been a member of the Queensland branch of the Australian Labor Party for nearly 30 years. On two occasions her husband, Gordon, ran as a State candidate for the ALP and was a councillor for the Longreach Shire for several terms. Her sons Graham and Bruce have also sought to serve the community through the arena of State and local politics. The tower of strength and support for all of these endeavours was Lola.

Lola will be a sad loss for the Saunders family and our hearts go out to them in their time of sorrow. Lola will also be a sad loss for the community. I take this opportunity to express sympathy to Gordon and the rest of the Saunders family. Lola Saunders epitomised the great Australian women who have formed the backbone of the Australian Labor Party.

The other matter that I raise is that of the Brisbane Council for International Students, which is in dire financial straits in terms of its capacity to continue to provide its very fine service to the community. The Brisbane Council for International Students is a voluntary organisation comprising various community and student groups and is designed to protect the welfare of international students and their families in Brisbane. The provenance of the BCIS is probably best located in the Colombo Plan of 1950. By 1968, Australia had sent more than——

Time expired.
