



Speech by

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Hansard 19 August 1999

MS C. WENITONG

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—IND) (7.07 p.m.): I rise to pay tribute to a beautiful lady, Cecelia Wenitong, usually called Cec. To her family she was known as Nanna Tong. Cec Wenitong was a member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in our area. My first contact with her and her husband, Richard, was when we were trying to sort out some problems with Richard's war pension.

Cec was an active member of the reconciliation group, but at her funeral one of the most repeated comments made about her was about her bright colours, her ageless beauty and her peaceful, quiet nature. The people at the funeral who were most upset were the young ones, the ones who had been comforted by Cec and who had been given vision and, I guess, hope for the future. In spite of her years—she was 86 years of age—she was young at heart and very, very spritely. The funeral was a large community occasion where many people from across all walks of life were able to pay tribute to the role that Cec had played in our community for all of those years.

She was a happy person with a bright personality and a strong Christian faith in her maker. We the members of the Gladstone community are the losers for her leaving, but I know that she is happy and at peace with her maker.
