



Speech by
**Mr DENVER
BEANLAND**

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPIILLY

Hansard 22 August 2000

JUDGE FRED MCGUIRE

Mr BEANLAND (Indooroopilly—LP) (7.16 p.m.): I rise to pay tribute to the late Judge Frederick McGuire AO, BA, LLB who passed away on 15 July this year aged 71 years. Judge McGuire was born at Mount Morgan on 25 January 1929. There was a very long period of time in which he was a judge of the District Court of Queensland—some 24 years. He was appointed in 1974 and retired late in 1998. He was also the inaugural President of the Childrens Court of this State from September 1993 til his retirement.

Fred McGuire was known to many people in this place. His passing, I am sure, has left many of his friends and acquaintances with great sadness indeed. Fred died after a lifelong battle with asthma, although it is fair to say that he did not allow it to impair his capacity for work. Of course, Fred was a tireless worker, particularly when it came to the law.

Fred also had a number of strings to his bow. He was educated at Rockhampton State High School and St John's College. He studied at the University of Queensland and stayed at the St John's College of which he later became the foundation chairman. That was a particularly important role as far as he was concerned. He was a member of the central bar of Queensland from 1953 to 1974, chairman of the Rockhampton Club, chairman of the Rotary Club of Rockhampton and a member of the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education.

Fred was a person whom many of us knew not only because of the role that he played in this State as president of the Childrens Court but also because of the many reports that he used to make each year in that particular role. In 1974, after having served 21 years at the central bar, Fred was appointed as a judge of the District Court. In that role it is fair to say that he was not reticent in giving judicial judgments. In fact, in 1987 Fred McGuire was appointed chairman of the Police Complaints Tribunal, a position he held until the tribunal was abolished and replaced in 1990 by the Criminal Justice Commission—quite a period of turmoil.

I remember well the discussions with him about his proposal to have Aboriginal elders sit with him on the court bench. That occurred in May 1997. It is well known that, in May 1997 at the Cherbourg Aboriginal settlement, the Aboriginal elder Neville Bonner sat on the bench with him to discuss sentencing of Aboriginal offenders. That was a first, I believe, for Australia.

Fred, though, was also a man of vision and energy. He was very unpretentious. That was mentioned in the tributes to him at his funeral with words such as "dignity", "decency", "compassion" and "wisdom" being used—all words that a person could apply aptly to Fred McGuire. It is fair to say that much of the juvenile justice laws of this State are in the words of Fred McGuire because of the amendments that the National/Liberal Borbidge/Sheldon Government made in 1996. Many of those amendments, in fact, flowed from Fred McGuire's comments. He was also involved as a member of the District Court in the judgment in the case involving abortion laws as they then applied in Queensland.

He gave a lifetime of service to the people of this State and brought many distinctions which in June this year saw his appointment as an officer of the Order of Australia. The late Fred McGuire is survived by his widow, Patricia, who herself is a renowned music teacher and pianist whom he married on 8 January 1960. With the death of Fred McGuire, Australia has lost not only a well respected former judicial officer and lawyer but also a great Queenslander. I am sure that other members will join with me in wishing Patricia the very best of health and happiness.