



Speech by

Michael CHOI

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

Hansard 1 May 2001

COUNCILLOR EDDIE SANTAGIULIANA

Mr CHOI (Capalaba—ALP) (12.20 p.m.): I rise today to pay tribute to the late Councillor Eddie Santagiuliana, the Mayor of Redland Shire Council who, sadly, passed away unexpectedly at his Cleveland home on Sunday 22 April at the age of 55. Councillor Santagiuliana was known as the people's mayor and he much preferred to be called Eddie rather than his formal title.

Eddie was born in Italy and migrated to Australia, arriving in the Redlands in 1955 at the age of nine. He attended the local state schools at Capalaba, Birkdale and Wellington Point. Over the years, Eddie became greatly involved in the Redlands community. At the tender age of 18 he became the secretary of the Strawberry Growers Association. At the time of his death he was patron of almost 40 organisations in his shire. Eddie was elected as councillor in 1982 and mayor in 1994. He served the citizens of the Redlands faithfully for over 18 years.

I spoke to Eddie the night before he died and he told me about his intention to return to work the next week. That was typical of a man who was totally committed to his work and to the people who trusted him. Eddie, the people's mayor, never hesitated to encourage others. He came up to me at a function and said, 'Michael, I have noticed how you have worked in the last two months. Keep it up and the people will love you just as they love me.'

Eddie's was another successful migrant story. On the night he was elected mayor for the first time he told the Honourable Con Sciacca, the federal member for Bowman, 'That's not too bad for a wog.' Eddie was a classic example of how migrants come to this land, work hard and contribute so much to this great country of ours despite where they come from, their creed or their religion. Eddie, the people's mayor, will be sadly missed by all, and his work is evident around the shire.
