



Speech by

Michael Choi

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

Hansard Thursday, 21 October 2004

DEATH OF MRS M. WILSON

Mr CHOI (Capalaba—ALP) (7.00 p.m.): I rise to express my sadness and to pay special tribute to Mrs Margaret Anne Wilson, who passed away suddenly at her home in Capalaba on Monday, 18 October. Margaret was born on 10 January 1947, the only daughter among four sons of former Queensland Sheffield Shield cricketer Rex Rogers and his wife, Mrs Marie Rogers. On 19 July 1980 she married John Wilson in what was surely a union of two soul mates. Over the next 24 years the Wilsons did everything together. They thought alike, they enjoyed the same things, they cared about the same causes and they never wanted more out of life than what they had, which was each other.

One of the causes they both cared about was the right of all people to social justice. While John was carrying on the fight in the workplace, Margaret was equally supportive and sympathetic to this cause on the home front. It was these two qualities that stood her in good stead when she later worked as an electorate officer in the state offices of Capalaba, Cleveland and Redlands and in the federal office of Con Sciacca, former member for Bowman, and John Hogg, senator for Queensland.

Margie, as she was affectionately known to her many friends, was truly a special person who had a unique gift not only of being able to show compassion but also of being able to share other people's pain. I have heard how after seeing a constituent with a particularly distressing case Margaret would sit down and have a little cry and say, 'There must be something we can do to help these poor people.' Then she would leave no stone unturned to try to achieve a successful outcome to their case. And on most occasions she was successful.

Margie Wilson was the despair of modern-day feminists. She considered herself primarily a homemaker. Her home, her husband, John, and her dogs, Cleo and later Lucy, were her life. She did not understand people who yearned for expensive clothes or holidays or who talked about job satisfaction. Her joy in life came from making others happy. From the many stories I have heard over the last few years, she enriched the lives of many who came into contact with her.

I extend my sympathies to all the members of the Redlands branches of the Australian Labor Party, to the special people in Margaret's life and to those who loved her most—her husband, John; her mother, Marie, aged 91; her brothers, David, Dennis, Ross and Greg; and their families.

Margie Wilson was a big woman with a big heart. She related to everyone, from teenagers to the elderly. She was never too busy to listen. She was never judgmental and her warm generosity and understanding were legendary. Above all, she was one of those rarest of people who are held in great affection by all who knew her. I know that I speak on behalf of all her friends when I say that, although our lives are saddened by her passing, we are all better people for having known her, and we will all miss her.

Time expired.