



Speech by

Hon. Warren Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Hansard Friday, 21 April 2006

AMADIO, MRS M

Hon. FW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors) (8.09 pm): Throughout Queensland there are people who work tirelessly to help others without the thought of recognition or payment. We all know one of these selfless volunteers who enrich our communities in all facets of life. They work at the primary school tuckshop, deliver meals to the aged and infirm, coach a junior football team or collect money for charities. I would like to pay tribute to one such person from my home town of Gordonvale. Margaret Amadio was born and bred in the Cairns district—a 'real' local far-north Queenslander.

Far northerners have a reputation for caring for their own and willingly lending a hand to others in need. Margaret was one of those people who went above and beyond the call of duty. Countless times she willingly came to the aid of family and friends who needed help. Sadly, Margaret died a few months ago, aged 60, after losing a battle with cancer. She leaves behind her husband John, son Gino, daughter Corrina, daughter-in-law Gillian, son-in-law Simon and grandchildren Alex, Ryan, Jessica and Connor.

Family was important to Margaret, as were her friends and people in need. She was a tireless worker for a number of community organisations, including the Children's Leukaemia and Cancer Society and Gordonvale Community Care. As patron of Gordonvale Community Care, I knew Margaret well as a caring woman who always put the needs of others first. As part of this dedicated group, she helped to find accommodation for families and friends of patients at the Gordonvale public care hospital. In the latter part of Margaret's life, her friends and co-workers helped her friends from out of town to find accommodation when they came to visit her at the Gordonvale Hospital.

Margaret and I shared a love of football of the Rugby League variety. Although Margaret was a dedicated Ivanhoes supporter and I a Suburbs man, we had many lively debates about the Cairns district Rugby League. We did agree, however, that the Cowboys would one day be the side to beat in the National Rugby League. What a pity she is not alive to see their current undefeated run.

Margaret supported Ivanhoes for more than 20 years and was awarded a life membership of the club. She was a member of the Ivanhoes ladies committee and helped at many home games and working bees.

Margaret, along with her husband John, gave many dedicated years to the Australian Labor Party. Their wise counsel was always greatly valued by me, as local member.

All of her life, Margaret's compassion and dedication to others was unwavering. Even through her years of pain, she still put the needs of others first. She nursed her husband John after his heart operation when she was first diagnosed with cancer. For Margaret, the hardest part of being sick was having to be the patient and not the carer. She was a no-nonsense type of person and hated to be made a fuss of. Margaret Amadio was a special person who will be sorely missed by family, friends and those whose lives she touched.