



Speech by

# Hon. Fiona Simpson


MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Tuesday, 19 June 2012

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## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Deeral, Mr E

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, yesterday morning on behalf of the parliament I visited the community of Hope Vale to acknowledge and honour Mr Eric Deeral, who was the first Indigenous person to be elected to an Australian state parliament, representing the seat of Cook in the Queensland parliament from 1974 to 1977.

Nearing 80 years of age, it was appropriate that Mr Deeral be recognised for his significant contribution to the advancement of Queensland's Indigenous community in the company of his family, local community and elders and for this recognition to occur on his country. Mr Deeral was presented with a gift of recognition, which was a bound folio of his record of service to the Queensland parliament. I table a copy of this folio for the public record.

*Tabled paper:* Bound folio of record of service of Mr Eric Deeral [[314](#)].

The visit to Hope Vale was facilitated by the parliament's Indigenous liaison officer and Community Engagement services and was an historic opportunity to recognise our first Indigenous MP. In attendance was the member for Cook; the mayor, deputy mayor and local councillors of Hope Vale; the mayor, deputy mayor and local councillors of the Cook shire; and the Hope Vale chief executive officer. In addition, on behalf of the parliament I sought permission from Mr Deeral to rename the Indigenous Youth Parliament, which is held in the Queensland parliament, in his honour, which was granted.

Eric Deeral's greatest legacy was not limited to his parliamentary service but in the leadership he has demonstrated and inspired in others. Great leaders unlock the potential of people whom they serve—helping them achieve their dreams, to be their best and to claim their destiny for good. Yesterday we recognised such a leader in Mr Deeral.