




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Wilson, Ms MC

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.52 pm): I rise to speak about a wonderful woman and friend who sadly died in Ipswich on 11 October 2016. Margaret Constance Wilson, known as Peggy, was born in Ipswich on 20 February 1938 to parents David and Constance. Peggy was one of four—the much loved sister of Janice, Yvonne and Pamela. Peggy married Peter Frankish on 3 November 1956 and they had three children: Greg, John and Karen.

I first got to know Peggy in 2001 when she contacted me to offer her services as a volunteer for the Labor Party. I was working in the Ipswich electorate office at the time. From the moment Peggy walked in the door I could see she was a woman of substance and action. Throughout the years of knowing Peggy I came to love and admire her enormously. Her ability to organise, assess and process was extraordinary. Once she knew what was needed, in a very short space of time Peggy would figure out the most efficient and direct way of achieving that goal. She never made any fuss. She continued to volunteer for at least one day a week in the Ipswich office and I know that she gave her time to our local federal MP's electorate office as well.

Peggy believed in the Labor Party, and when Peggy believed in something she did not sit around talking about it or complaining about things; she threw her weight and her considerable ability behind it and in so doing brought about real change in the Ipswich community. Peggy lost her daughter, Karen, when she died of viral myocarditis at the age of 31. I have a daughter around that age and I simply do not know how I would survive if anything were to happen to her. I did not know Peggy during that period in her life, but I can only imagine what she went through. Three years after Karen's death, Peggy's husband, Peter, had a stroke, leaving him quite disabled. Peggy cared for him tirelessly and lovingly. She became very involved in the Ipswich Stroke Support Group and, not surprisingly, soon became the spokesperson and turned the organisation around, improving the lives of many carers and stroke survivors as a result.

Upon her death, Peggy had seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Peggy often spoke of them and they should all know how well loved they were and how proud of them she was. Peggy was loving but not overly sentimental. She showed her love through her cooking and her beautiful crocheting and knitting and by always being there when she was needed. I should add that, in addition to everything else, Peggy knitted trauma teddies for the Red Cross. Three minutes is not enough time to extol the virtues of Peggy's character. Peggy touched so many lives. Her funeral was held in Ipswich's beautiful St Paul's Anglican Church on Tuesday, 25 October and the church was full. Hundreds of people showed up to say goodbye to this very special person. It is hard to imagine an election campaign in Ipswich without Peggy and almost impossible to imagine a world without her. Alongside many others, I will miss her terribly.