



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2017

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Richardson, Ms F; Marsden State High School**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.45 pm): I did want to speak tonight about the success of the Marsden State High School football teams. I will get to that, but first I want to take a moment to acknowledge the sad passing of my friend, the nation's first ever minister for the prevention of domestic violence and member for Northcote in Victoria, Fiona Richardson. We have tonight heard the devastating news that Fiona lost her brave battle with the aggressive tumours she had been fighting for some months. Her strength and quiet determination meant she had survived cancer once before, but tonight her recent struggle became too great. She was just 50 years of age.

I have been privileged to work with Fiona through the women's safety ministers' meetings where I witnessed her relentless pursuit of better support and services for women and children escaping violence. A survivor of domestic violence herself, she was fierce in her determination to make all of us—other states, the federal government, and the community—do everything we can to curb this violence.

She was smart and one of those people who everyone listened to when she spoke. I certainly looked to her for direction when I first became minister. I was so relieved that there was someone at these meetings who directly linked gender inequality with violence against women. Her family are right when they say that the whole nation is trying to emulate the comprehensive gender equality strategy she championed. They are absolutely right when they say that she had unfinished business in the fight to end violence against women. It is incumbent on all of us to follow through on the path she set.

She was generous. Fiona was always willing to have a chat when we were in the same city or when there were important matters we needed to gang up on against the Commonwealth, as state ministers often do. I will miss her dearly. I know that I speak for everyone in the parliament when I say our thoughts are with her family, her many friends and colleagues and her staff at this very sad time.

I also want to talk about Marsden State High School's incredible football teams. While not successful against Keebra Park, I am told the Rugby League team put up a courageous fight in the Queensland GIO Schoolboy Cup Grand Final today, and the players should be proud. Nearly half the school was there with the community cheering on the boys, including my federal colleague Jim Chalmers. Congratulations to principal Andrew Peach and the head coach, Joe O'Callaghan.

Not only that, but the year 7 team won in golden point extra time 14 points to 12 against Wavell State High School. While not successful in their grand final, the year 10 team can be so proud of their hard work and effort. I also want to give a shout-out to the open girls Rugby team, which achieved incredible results in their debut season in the statewide competition. The achievements of Marsden State High School are a testimony not only to the talent and passion of the players but also to the great school that enriches the spirit that lies within the Marsden community and the Waterford electorate.