



Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 16 May 2019

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Kippin-O'Connor, Ms VA



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): I move—

1. that this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Victoria Ann Kippin-O'Connor, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland; and
2. that Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased lady the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland, on the loss they have sustained.

I rise to honour the memory of Vicky Kippin-O'Connor, who served in this House as the member for Mourilyan from 1974 until 1980. It gives me enormous pleasure to welcome her family members and friends, many of whom have travelled a long way to be here today: Vicky's daughter Liz Kippin; her grandson Bradley Keough and his partner Skye Marley; her granddaughter and grandson, Ella and Daniel Keough; her brothers Geoff and David Cox; her sisters Anita Lethbridge and Sue Faulkenhagen; her cousin Cheryl Cox; and her friends Elizabeth Gonzo and Lorna Fichera, who was the wife of Vicky's campaign manager—that just shows how enduring are the friends we make in a political life. Many other friends are also here: Richard and Jacki Clayton, Alessandra Atkinson, Robynn Morro and Shirley Cameron-Kirk. It is a real pleasure to welcome you all here to the parliament today, to the House where Vicky served her community so dutifully.

Victoria Ann Kippin-O'Connor was born in Ayr on 7 September 1942 and was educated at Kalamia and Ayr state schools and St Anne's Church of England Grammar School in Townsville. Later she studied at the University College of Townsville, as James Cook University was then known, and also at the University of Queensland. Vicky Kippin-O'Connor worked as a high school teacher from 1964 to 1966 before marrying and having a family.

Then, in 1974, she was preselected by the National Party to contest the seat of Mourilyan at the next state election. At that time, Mourilyan had been held by the ALP since its creation in 1949, but as history records, Vicky Kippin-O'Connor won the seat, defeating Peter Moore, at the state election held on 7 December 1974. Vicky was quite a trailblazer. The 1974 state election saw the third and fourth women ever elected to the Queensland parliament—Vicky Kippin-O'Connor, and Rosemary Kyburz who won the Brisbane seat of Salisbury. Indeed, Vicky Kippin-O'Connor was the first woman to be elected to a seat outside of the south-east corner, with our first female member, Irene Longman, holding the seat of Bulimba and our second female member, Vi Jordan, holding the seat of Ipswich West. In fact, the Speaker and my colleague, the member for Bulimba, the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women, recognised the 90th anniversary of Irene Longman's election to this House in a ceremony here on Monday night.

In February 1975 when the parliament opened after the election, Vicky Kippin-O'Connor was given the honour of moving the address-in-reply motion to the Governor's opening speech to the parliament. I think one of her highlights as a member in this place would have been when she

represented Queensland at the Australian Constitutional Convention in Perth in 1978. Not content with serving her community in the state legislature, Ms Kippin-O'Connor also served as a councillor on the Johnstone Shire Council from 1982 to 1985.

Sadly, Victoria Ann Kippin-O'Connor passed away in March this year aged 76 years and a funeral service to commemorate her life was held in Innisfail on 3 April 2019. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service Ms Kippin-O'Connor gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Ms Kippin-O'Connor's family and friends.