




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

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ADJOURNMENT

Shipway, Aunty Lyn

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.05 pm): I rise to pay tribute to the life of Lynette Shipway, a proud Quandamooka elder of North Stradbroke Island who recently passed away. I attended Aunty Lyn's funeral on 15 October at the Dunwich Community Hall. The building was full and overflowing. This speech is based on the eulogies of family and friends, with permission.

Lynette Shipway was born in Brisbane on 10 January 1942 to parents Phyllis and Kevin Lynch. At a young age, her family returned to Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island to live with her grandparents on their farm. Lyn loved those childhood years on the family farm that she described as being like Old MacDonald's farm. Lyn was raised in a community and family oriented environment, with her grandparents running an oyster and fishing business which provided employment for their family and others. This focus on family and community would be a key part of Lyn's life. Lyn's life was shaped by both Western society and her Aboriginal heritage. She learned much from her grandmother about Aboriginal culture, developing a deep respect and concern for the oceans, the land and its people.

In 1961, the family moved for a short time to Sydney, where Lyn met her husband, Lindsay. In time, Lyn and Lindsay moved back to North Stradbroke Island, where they later started and raised their own family: four children—Bruce, Leif, Abraham and Rebecca. The blessings continued with 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren to follow.

Lyn was a devoted wife and mother. She believed in her children and loved sport. She was often seen cheering them on at school sports days. After supporting her daughter, Rebecca, to play softball at state level, Lyn took it up herself and played masters representative softball, travelling the country and the world. Lyn was also an avid Brisbane Broncos and Indigenous All Stars fan.

She was committed to education, becoming a teacher's aide at Dunwich State School. This was the start of an 18-year career in the education system. Lyn went on to co-author a book on bush tucker with Aunty Margaret Iselin. Lyn influenced the lives of countless Aboriginal children.

Aunty Lyn's compassion for others carried into her work as a carer at several aged-care facilities and in charring and serving on the boards of numerous organisations dedicated to improving the lives of Aboriginal people. These included the Minjerribah Moorgumpin Elders-in-Council, the North Stradbroke Island Housing Co-op, the Yulu-Burri-Ba Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health.

Lyn was instrumental in delivering many programs to the community, including childcare and mums-and-bubs programs, health and medical services, the first Indigenous ranger programs, cultural heritage projects and the provision of aged-care services.

In January this year, she was honoured with the Redlands Council Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award. Aunty Lyn, you will be sorely missed but warmly remembered by us all.