




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

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 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.10 pm): I always say that you can't be what you can't see. That is why the Palaszczuk government has taken the issue of women's representation and women's leadership incredibly seriously. Having strong female role models is what brought many of us to this place. Tonight I want to talk about one of the influential women in my life: my nanna, Shirley Hilda Fentiman, who passed away last month at the age of 94.

Shirley was born in another time, when women certainly did not serve in cabinet. In fact, when she was born in 1927 Queensland was yet to elect a female MP to the parliament. Over her lifetime so many things changed. Despite many challenges, she always had the most wicked sense of humour and it is her mischievous laughter that I will miss the most.

Like so many women of her generation, Shirley raised three kids—my dad, Eric, the eldest, and Dianne and Peter—and supported her husband, my grandfather Frank, who we now know clearly suffered from PTSD after returning from World War II. She was always an incredibly fun nanna—always the first to sit down and play games and get involved with whatever my sister and I were up to.

It was following the passing of my grandad that she found her life's passion for travelling, socialising and giving back to the community. She joined the National Seniors and became very active in the Coorparoo branch. She travelled the length and breadth of Queensland with her friends on bus trips and even ventured overseas on cruise ships with the National Seniors. Nothing could stop her. I am so pleased that she lived her life to the full and took the opportunity to experience so many adventures.

We celebrated nanna's life at the Memorial Gardens Chapel in Rockhampton on 3 November. It was lovely to travel up there with my dad and my sister and join Dad's family, including so many of my extended family, especially cousins I had not seen in many years, and share stories and memories about our nanna. Thank you to my Aunt Dianne for her moving eulogy and a big and heartfelt thanks to my cousin Kelly, her husband Russel and son Will for their generosity in caring for and having nanna live with them in Gracemere in the last few years of her life. Thank you, Kelly, for always telling those hardworking health staff that nanna was only joking when she used to tell them they had to look after her or she would call her granddaughter, the Attorney-General. I am here in this place because of the strong women in my family who came before me. Vale, Shirley Fentiman, and thank you so much for all your love and support.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Condolences, member. It is not surprising to find a Coorparoo local giving back to the community.

