



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 May 2021

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Thompson, Mrs FA**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.12 pm): As parliamentarians, we meet many great Queenslanders each and every day. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about one great Queenslander I met recently. On my visit to Barcardine Hospital the other week the wonderful hospital staff introduced me to a patient they were caring for—Frances Amelia Thompson, affectionately known as 'Toddy' to her friends and family.

After a bit of chitchat with Toddy, she asked me from the depths of her very snugly warm bed, 'Are you the Prime Minister?' to which I explained, 'No, I am the health minister.' Her response was, 'Well thank you very much for coming to see me, love.' She was such a darling. She then asked me had I been introduced to her daughter Sharon, who has worked as a laundress for the last 41 years at Barcardine Hospital, and her granddaughter Katie, who works at the hospital as a healthcare worker and in admin while she completes her registered nursing training in October this year.

It was suggested that the place to catch up with both of them would be at the 'Lang Park' of Barcardine, the local showgrounds, where Toddy's favourite football team in Australia the mighty Barcardine Sand Goannas—hopefully soon to be premiers—were playing that night. It was there that I had the pleasure of meeting Sharon and Katie, carrying armfuls of burgers. I explained to them that I had met Toddy that day and that she was an absolute delight and how blessed they were, as I was to have met her.

A lot has changed in Toddy's lifetime. She has seen electric stoves come in, bitumen roads and TVs. She has always been a fierce advocate for her family of seven children, her husband, Bernie, and her community of not only Barcardine but also more broadly regional Queensland.

Toddy was born in Barcardine on 7 October 1922. It was with great sadness that this week I learnt that Toddy passed away on Wednesday, 19 May at 12.10 pm surrounded by her two daughters and her daughter-in-law—just as she had lived, with her nearest and dearest close by. She was 98.

When I met Toddy she was receiving the most wonderful palliative care from the staff at Barcardine Hospital who had gone above and beyond to make Toddy's last weeks as special as possible. They set up a special room and surrounded Toddy with her favourite things and plants. They visited her throughout the day and ensured that Toddy was very well looked after.

I want to pay tribute to the staff at the Barcardine Hospital for their compassion and commitment and, on behalf of the Palaszczuk government, thank them for their amazing work. It was truly a privilege to have been able to spend some time with Toddy, to hear her story, to embrace her and to meet her family. It is a moment that I will never forget. Vale Frances Amelia Thompson. Goodbye, Toddy.