



Speech By  
**Mark Robinson**


**MEMBER FOR OODGEROO**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Hanlon, Ms S

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.06 pm): I rise, like the Speaker this morning, to honour Susan Hanlon, electorate officer of the Oodgeroo electorate office, for reaching the incredible milestone of 50 years of service as an employee of the Queensland parliament, working first in the library, then in other parliamentary roles, then over 30 years in the Redlands and Cleveland-Oodgeroo electorate offices as electorate officer.

In her late teen years Sue McCulloch was appointed to the position of stenographer in the parliamentary library on 26 March 1973. Sir Joh had been premier for five years at the time and Sue has a lot of great memories from those days. Once when coming to parliament Sue saw the gardeners cutting down freshly blooming flowers to make way for a new season of planting. Sir Joh was having breakfast with Lady Flo and their son John at the time. Seeing Sue looking quite upset, he asked what was wrong. In learning that it was about the gardens, Sir Joh is said to have hastily made his way to the gardeners and berated them for cutting down freshly blooming flowers. By lunchtime Sue had a big bouquet of those same flowers on her desk.

In those days electorate officer positions had not yet been established, and it was the duty of the parliamentary library team to help members with their research during sitting weeks. With the old typewriters not being able to keep up with the level of work required, Sue was amongst the first to receive a brand new electric typewriter—much to the envy of some of her other colleagues. Sue has often referred to the long sitting hours that members and staff endured. More often than not parliament would sit into the early hours of the morning. In some cases she would finish work at 3 am and have to come back at 9 am to start the next shift.

Sue and her husband Greg have two boys, Aaron and Nathan. As the family came along she moved out as an electorate officer to the Redlands and did a couple of stints back and forward with the parliament before taking up the role of the electorate officer in the Cleveland, now Oodgeroo, electorate office.

As there was only one staff member provided to members at the time, Sue would often work long hours and usually did not have time for lunch. For over 30 years, she has worked as EO with three MPs—Darryl Briskey, Phil Weightman and me. At each point of change, incoming members have snapped her up and retained her valuable services for the electorate's sake. Anyone who has had the privilege of working with Sue knows she works hard, diligently and with great depth of knowledge and experience. She cares for the constituents so much that I often refer to her as the pastor of the region. I want to congratulate Sue for her 50 years of sacrificial service to the Redlands Coast and Queensland, and especially for the last 14 years and several elections putting up with me.