




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Carr, Ms RM

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.46 pm): I wish to make my contribution this afternoon and read into *Hansard* the service history and statement of former inspector Regan Mary Carr. Her record of service notes were taken from her funeral earlier this month as read by former commissioner Bob Atkinson.

Regan commenced at the police academy on 24 November 1986 and was sworn in on 5 June 1987. She commenced her uniform career at stations including Fortitude Valley, city station and Nundah. She then commenced her plain-clothes career as a detective for over 20 years commencing at the Brisbane Juvenile Aid Bureau in June 1988. Over the next five years she would work at the Fraud Squad, sex offenders squad and the child exploitation unit. She also worked as a covert operative at the Drug Squad and the licensing branch before returning to the Juvenile Aid Bureau at Noosa Heads and places like Indooroopilly and Pine Rivers. She worked at police headquarters as the SCAN coordinator and received her commission to be an inspector on 21 November 2011.

As an inspector, she worked at the Inspectorate and Evaluation Branch and at Communications as a state duty officer before she was appointed the state coordinator for domestic and family violence, a position created as a result of the *Not now, not ever* report. She created the Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Unit. Regan brought her entire suite of skills to this role: her empathy, her dedication, her communication skills, her ability to bring stakeholders together and her tenacity.

It was in this role that I first met Inspector Carr. I came on board as her senior sergeant project officer for domestic and family violence. While I had written and taught domestic and family violence training for recruits, she had faith that I could design and deliver a training program for the entire Queensland Police Service. This is a comment I have heard about Regan as a team manager and leader and I will read what was said at her funeral. It was said that although she never considered herself one, Regan was a transformational leader. She believed in the vision, she believed in the people and she harnessed their intelligence, energy and experience to create the change necessary to challenge the status quo and shape a new future.

She retired on 15 March 2020 and passed away after a battle with cancer on 25 January 2023. Regan was a tireless advocate for domestic and family violence within the QPS and, regardless of the outcomes of the commission of inquiry, she deserves to be recognised for her work in this field.