



Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**


**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Campbell, Ms B**

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (6.19 pm): I rise tonight to acknowledge a community member, tireless worker, union member and, quite frankly, someone I consider a member of my family. In my first speech I made reference to the fact that I have always been a full-time working mum, and in my list of thanks I made reference to the many early childhood educators who have played a significant role in raising my kids. In doing so, I was really referring to one individual in particular, Ms Barb. Barbara Campbell has been an early educator for all my children—from my eldest when she was in the nursery in 2010, some 13 years ago, to my youngest. Ms Barb attended her kindy graduation only 18 months ago. For 11 years she has been a daily fixture in my kids' lives. Even when they were not in her class, we always had to go to her room to visit her every morning so my kids could get their morning hug from Ms Barb.

She was especially of great assistance to my family when my son was born in England. Not only did she assist with my daughter back here in Australia, visiting and keeping her entertained while I was in England for many months; she was also a Liverpool expat and a very proud Scouse, so while we spent some considerable time in Alder Hey she deployed her family members there to come to my assistance. When we travelled to England in 2018 and I could not take my son with me, Ms Barb looked after him. She considered my son Ronan her beloved little England compatriot. Ms Barb was a regular at our house at Easter and on Christmas Day, and birthdays were also celebrated with Ms Barb. She was also a key contributor to my campaigns, because she looked after the kids on election day.

It was with great sadness that I received the news of her passing last week in her sleep. My thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Mick, and all of her colleagues at Kidzco Springwood, where she was a cornerstone for over 15 years. I cannot begin to comprehend the number of young lives Ms Barb has touched. Wherever Barb is now, she can feel comfort in the knowledge that she brought so much joy and happiness to so many young lives and, in her way, she also introduced an entire generation of young children to her beloved Everton Football Club. My house is strewn with blue teddies, shirts and scarves. For Ms Barb, I really do hope the Blues—the Toffees—get up this weekend.