



Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Doran, Ms M

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (9.19 pm): I rise to honour and remember a remarkable woman and my dear friend Margaret Doran, who gave so much of herself to others, to her community and to the Labor movement she loved. Born on 15 April 1935, Margaret lived 90 years before passing on 24 June this year. In those years she left an indelible mark, not through fanfare or self-promotion but through quiet constancy, deep integrity and genuine care for people.

Margaret was a life member of the Australian Labor Party and served as treasurer of the Ipswich state organising committee for close to 20 years—a role she carried out with her trademark diligence, precision and absolute trustworthiness. She believed in Labor values not as slogans but as a way of life—fairness, compassion, opportunity for all.

She was also a teacher librarian. Through that calling she touched the lives of countless young people in Ipswich. She believed that knowledge could light the way forward and that every child deserved the chance to discover the joy of learning. Margaret was a proud member of the Queensland Teachers' Union and she remained close to her fellow teacher librarians, meeting with them every week even in later years—a circle of friendship, laughter and shared stories that she treasured. Her love of learning never stopped. Margaret attended U3A, where she studied philosophy and even tackled the challenge of cryptic crosswords. That curiosity of mind, that desire to understand and reflect, was such a defining part of her.

Faith was another foundation in her life. A devout Catholic, Margaret lived her values daily through kindness, humility and quiet service. She was always present—truly present—with whomever she was with. No matter what she might have been going through herself, she gave you her full attention and her warm, steady presence.

Family was everything to Margaret—her beloved sister and brother-in-law, Patricia and Ian; her nephew, Tom; her nieces, Katherine and Clare; and her great-niece and great-nephew, Millie and William. She spoke of them with enormous love and pride. For so many Ipswich people she was also a dear friend—loyal, thoughtful, funny and wise. We miss her terribly.

Margaret's life reminds us that the most powerful legacies are not built on titles or recognition but on relationship, integrity and service. Today we say: thank you, Margaret, for your friendship, your faith, your intellect and your unwavering belief in people, community and the Labor Party. Margaret, may you rest in peace and may we carry forward the compassion and commitment that you showed all of us.