

ADJOURNMENT .....	39
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE .....	4, 10
CENTENARY OF FIRST WORLD WAR .....	3
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE .....	4
GOVERNOR'S SPEECH .....	1
GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS-IN-REPLY .....	10, 17
ISLAMIC COMMUNITY .....	39
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON SENTENCING OF CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT OFFENDERS..	38
LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL (PRO FORMA) 2014.....	3
MALAYSIA AIRLINES FLIGHT MH17 .....	42
NOTICES OF MOTIONS .....	4
OPENING OF SESSION BY HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR .....	1
RESTORATION OF BUSINESS OF THE PREVIOUS SESSION .....	9, 9, 9, 10, 37
RURAL AND REGIONAL ROADS .....	43
SESSIONAL ORDERS .....	4
TEMPORARY CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES .....	17
UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES FORMER EMPLOYEE DR PAUL BARACH .....	41
WHITE BALLOON DAY.....	40



NEW SOUTH WALES

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(HANSARD)

---

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

---

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

Tuesday 9 September 2014

---

The House met at 11.00 a.m. pursuant to the proclamation of Her Excellency the Governor.

**The President (The Hon. Donald Thomas Harwin)** took the chair and read the prayers.

**The PRESIDENT:** I acknowledge the Gadigal clan of the Eora nation and its elders and thank them for their custodianship of this land.

**The Clerk of the Parliaments** read the proclamation.

**OPENING OF SESSION BY HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR**

**Her Excellency the Governor** was received by the President, who was accompanied by Ministers and officers of the House, and was conducted to the dais.

The Usher of the Black Rod was directed to request the immediate attendance of the members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber.

*The members of the Legislative Assembly attended.*

**GOVERNOR'S SPEECH**

**Her Excellency was pleased to deliver the following Speech:**

Good morning all. The Hon. Donald Harwin, President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, the Hon. Shelley Hancock, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, the Hon. Mike Baird, Premier of New South Wales, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Western Sydney, Mr John Robertson, Leader of the Opposition, and shadow Minister for Western Sydney, Ministers and all members of Parliament, it is indeed a deeply felt privilege to join you all this morning for the opening of the second session of the Fifty-fifth Parliament of New South Wales. May I at the outset affirm my deep respect for the traditional custodians of this land upon which we gather, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, their ancestors and descendants, indeed for all of Australia's Aboriginal people who have nurtured our great continent for tens of thousands of years.

A "deeply felt" privilege indeed I have stated, for this ceremonial opening comes at a time when the Parliament, the oldest Parliament in modern Australia, its members and its constituents, the people of New South Wales, can with undoubted pride, look down the road travelled since the beginnings of active parliamentary democracy in August 1824. And it is so fitting that we do so, just a few yards away from that portrait of William Charles Wentworth, who so long ago fought for the establishment of parliamentary democracy in our land. In August 1824, 190 years ago, the sixth Governor, Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, presided over the first meeting of the Legislative Council. Indeed, that historic first meeting was held at Government House, which, at the time, occupied the site on the corner of Bridge and Phillip streets.

As the thirty-seventh Governor of New South Wales, I have followed a line of outstanding predecessors, and I have enjoyed the special privilege accorded by tradition to New South Wales governors, which is to preside each week at the meeting of the Executive Council at which the week's major governmental recommendations are presented for final consideration and approval. This unique model provides an opportunity to examine the dynamics of our democratic system and, when necessary, to speak up on behalf of the people, the men, women and children. For the Governor must be mindful of the needs of all the people, the marginalised and the hurt, as well as the successful and the brilliant.

During my 13½ years as Governor, I happen to have had the advantage of serving during the term of office of six Premiers of New South Wales, each of whom I consider to have placed the wellbeing of the people of our State to the fore. Certainly during my period of service to the State as Governor, there have been many inspirational occasions when one's heart and mind have surged with pride at the stability, the vision and the harmony of multicultural inclusiveness supported by Government working in harmony with the people. Indeed, these moments come to the fore on days of national remembrance, such as Anzac Day, and at other commemorative events requiring considerable planning, such as the day of the International Fleet Review in Sydney Harbour. Such occasions remind us, if, indeed, any reminder is necessary, of the high standards in every respect of the Australian Defence Force, of our Australian service men and women.

During my travels across the length and breadth of our State in times of extreme drought, in times of devastating flood and bushfire, and in times of considerable bounty, the foremost issue being raised is that of ever-growing world interest in our incomparable standards of food production, as Asia and beyond are expressing serious concerns over food security and seeking to acquire Australian assets in this regard. Our diligent families on the land and other Australian participants in the rural sector should be able to count on appropriate support in times of critical strain—times which the nation has observed in those periods of prolonged drought or bushfires—and seek to accelerate creative plans for long-term water management. But despite these intermittent crises of nature, there remains above all that spirit of optimism, of resilience, of buoyancy, those Australian qualities that most Australians have for life and which continue to shine.

In recent years these qualities have been strengthened, I believe, by the continuing process of reconciliation. It is a time in which we are truly working and walking together. The rich dividends are to be seen in the advancement of all our young people, including Aboriginal young people, throughout all educational streams contributing significantly to the professions, the trades, the arts, sport and, above all, a greater Australia. Perhaps the more enduring images of pride that one encounters can be related to celebrations in recent years, celebrations of unity and history in anniversary commemorations in various townships, including visits to the schools. Visits have included Brewarrina, Brungle, Coonabarabran, Goulburn, Menindee, Narrandera, South Grafton, Warren and many more.

Indeed, on one such occasion in the Northern Rivers region, I shall never forget when I was greeted at the school by the young scholars, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, who opened the proceedings, understandably, with their rendition of the national anthem. But what a rendition—those exquisite young voices of innocence, children of an inclusive society, singing the first verse in the traditional Aboriginal language of that region and the second verse in English. Their scholastic application was undoubtedly being enriched by this sense of unity and respect so early in their lives. Another great source of pride to so many of us is the respect paid and the fine services developed to assist our citizens living with disability.

Other memorable visits and anniversaries of great diversity, which my husband, Nicholas Shehadie, and I will long remember of community significance but perhaps of uniquely Australian character, have included the establishment of the Australian Sea Bird Rescue Centre in Ballina; the Royal Easter Show magnificent openings, the Castle Hill Heritage Park marking the Bicentenary of the Castle Hill Rebellion and the Battle of Vinegar Hill; the opening of Biyani—an Eora language word meaning women helping and healing women—a service in the Long Bay Correctional Centre at Malabar providing rehabilitation for women with both mental disorder and drug abuse issues.

There have been many fine nursing and residential facilities established for our ever-increasing population of aged citizens; school and university building developments to meet critical and growing needs of our secondary and tertiary scholars; and visits to wonderful Men's Shed facilities to marvel at the diversity of skill acquired by our seniors in the incomparable environment of Australian mateship, which one also sees in abundance at the various RSL clubs across New South Wales. In most of these engagements and countless others of State advancement, our parliamentary representatives have been to the fore, sharing the spirit of what it is to be Australian.

Certainly, exceptional memories have derived from visits by our ruling monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and other members of the royal family, including His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge on two occasions—the most recent with his gracious wife, Catherine. Both endeared themselves to the crowds who flocked to see them and who were rewarded by the sincerity of their warmth and their genuine spontaneity.

It has always been a privilege as Governor to welcome a significant number of heads of State, heads of government and royal and religious leaders to our land, all availing themselves of the opportunity to strengthen ties between their lands and our country. I have also had the distinct privilege of visiting countries in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond in the further development of our enduring interests.

We the people of New South Wales, the people of Australia, are living in exceptional times. It is not immodest to claim that Australia has attracted the highest respect of most nations of the world. But on a serious note, one potential foe must be considered, the foe of complacency—taking these advances and this harmony for granted and the subsequent risks, often invisible, of regression. Of prime importance, therefore, accepted surely by all, is the fundamental foundation, truly democratic, of a wise government which listens to the people and is seen to respond.

May I take this opportunity to express my deep and sincere gratitude for the privilege of serving this State of New South Wales for 13½ years and to wish all honourable members continued success in your future deliberations on behalf of all the people of our beloved State, New South Wales. I thank you all.

*Her Excellency having left the dais, the members of the Legislative Assembly withdrew.*

*[The President left the chair at 11.53 a.m. The House resumed at 3.05 p.m.]*

### **CENTENARY OF FIRST WORLD WAR**

**The PRESIDENT:** On 8 September 1914, on the motion of the Premier and with the unanimous support of the House, the member for Armidale and the member for Willoughby were granted leave in order to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force, which the House noted was "being raised to assist the Empire in the present deplorable war". There could hardly have been two less similar characters than Lieutenant-Colonel George Frederick Braund and Edward Rennix Larkin.

Braund, English born and highly educated, had migrated to Australia with his family and prospered with them in the business community of Armidale, where they became leaders of the community. In 1913 he was elected as the Liberal member for that seat. He was a conservative, a local magistrate, the president of the chamber of commerce and an officer. A theosophist, teetotaler, vegetarian and fitness fanatic, he became the first Australian parliamentarian to enlist for active duty.

Larkin, born in North Lambton, a foot officer in the Metropolitan Police Force, represented Australia in international rugby and, demonstrating that code-switching is no recent phenomenon, later played for the Kangaroos and became the first full-time secretary of the Australian Rugby League. He joined the Australian Labor Party and in 1913 was elected the member for Willoughby. He was the first Australian Labor Party member to win a seat on the north shore, where he served on the board of Royal North Shore Hospital and agitated for the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. In his final address to the New South Wales Parliament on 18 August 1914 Larkin said, "I cannot engage in the work of recruiting and urge others to enlist unless I do so myself."

Both landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and both died there. Ted Larkin and his brother Martin both fell on the first day. They have no known grave and their names are recorded on the Lone Pine memorial. Frederick Braund died in the early hours of 4 May 1915 and lies in the Beach Cemetery at Anzac Cove. They were the only two Australian parliamentarians to lose their lives in the great conflict of the First World War. Different indeed but united in doing what they saw as their duty. They were willing to pay the ultimate price for their beliefs, and together they did. Lest we forget.

### **LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL (PRO FORMA) 2014**

**Bill presented and read a first time on motion by the Hon. Duncan Gay.**

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

**The PRESIDENT:** I inform the House that a trial is being held in this second session of the Fifty-fifth Parliament for a minor change to better facilitate consideration of bills in Committee of the Whole House. At the commencement of proceedings on a bill in Committee of the Whole, the chair will inquire whether leave is granted for the bill to be taken as a whole. Should leave be granted, the whole of the bill is considered and amendments can be moved to any part of the bill. This reflects current practice often followed in the Legislative Council with subject-related amendments being moved in globo by leave.

It is anticipated that this change will allow for a more efficient Committee of the Whole process, removing the need for the question to be put on every clause and schedule, with the question first put on each amendment and then on the bill as amended or as read at the conclusion of debate. It is not proposed that any other of the Legislative Council's existing rules and procedures in Committee of the Whole be changed or set aside at this time. The practice of considering the bill as a whole is a common practice followed by the Senate, offering greater flexibility which I have witnessed firsthand.

After the close of the second session of the Fifty-fifth Parliament, a review of the trial will be undertaken to ascertain if the new practice should continue into the new Parliament. Briefing sessions are available for members tomorrow at 10.15 a.m. or during the lunch break, with further details available from the Clerks at the table.

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

### **Motion, by leave, by the Hon. Duncan Gay agreed to:**

That for today's sitting of the House, members may give notices of motions by delivering a signed copy to the Clerks at the table. Such notices will be entered by the Clerk on the *Notice Paper* in random order.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

### **Conduct of Business**

### **Motion, by leave, by the Hon. Duncan Gay agreed to:**

That notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing orders, motions to adopt sessional orders and restore business, and debate on the Address-in-Reply, take precedence of all other business, including question time, for today only.

## SESSIONAL ORDERS

### **Motion, by leave, by the Hon. Duncan Gay agreed to:**

That, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered, this House meet for the despatch of business each week as follows:

#### **(1) Sitting days**

That, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered, this House meet for the despatch of business each week as follows:

Monday	11.00 a.m.
Tuesday	2.30 p.m.
Wednesday	11.00 a.m.
Thursday	9.30 a.m.
Friday	11.00 a.m.

#### **(2) Questions—time for questions without notice**

That, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered:

- (1) Questions are to commence at 4.00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, and at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- (2) Whenever the House adjourns to a day and time later than the time appointed in paragraph 1, questions are to commence 30 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting of the House.

(3) If, at the time for interruption:

- (a) a division is in progress, the division is to be completed and the result announced;
- (b) the House is in Committee of the Whole, the Chair is to leave the Chair and report progress;

and any business then under discussion, if not disposed of, is to be set down on the Notice Paper for a later hour of the sitting.

**(3) Motion for the adjournment**

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered:

- (1) Proceedings must be interrupted at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 10.00 p.m. on Wednesday and 3.30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday to permit a motion for adjournment to be moved to terminate the sitting if a Minister thinks fit.
- (2) If at the time of interruption the House is in Committee of the Whole, the Chair will interrupt business and inquire if the Minister wishes to move that the Chair report progress and seek leave to sit again.

**(4) Precedence of business**

That, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered:

- (1) Government business is to take precedence of general business on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and after 3.30 p.m. on Thursday each week.
- (2) General business is to take precedence until 3.30 p.m. on Thursday each week.

**(5) Debate on committee reports**

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered, debate on committee reports is to take precedence after questions on Tuesdays until 6.30 p.m.

**(6) Formal motions—SO 44**

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders, for the remainder of the current session Standing Order 44 be varied as follows:

- (1) Before the House proceeds to the business on the Notice Paper, the President will ask with respect to each notice of motion, at the request of the member who gave the notice, whether there is any objection to its being taken as a formal motion. If no objection is taken, the motion shall be taken as a formal motion.
- (2) Formal motions will be taken in the order in which they appear on the *Notice Paper*.
- (3) The request from a member that a notice of motion standing in the name of that member on the *Notice Paper* be taken as formal business must be signed by that member and handed to one of the Clerks at the Table by 3.00 p.m. on the sitting day before the sitting day on which the member wishes the matter to be considered as formal business.
- (4) The question of a formal motion must be put and determined without amendment or debate.
- (5) An order of the day for the third reading of bills may be dealt with as a formal motion.

**(7) Suspension of standing orders—SO 198**

That, for the remainder of the current session and unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 198 be amended to read as follows:

- (1) In urgent cases, any standing order or other order of the House may be suspended by the House in whole or in part:
  - (a) by a motion on notice; or
  - (b) by leave of the House.
- (2) On a motion for the suspension of a standing or other order, (with the exception of motions referred to in paragraph 3) a member may not speak for more than five minutes, and if the debate is not concluded after the expiration of 30 minutes after the moving of the motion the question on the motion will then be put.
- (3) A motion for the suspension of standing orders, on contingent notice, to allow the moving of a motion forthwith that an order of the day or motion on the *Notice Paper* relating to an order for papers under Standing Order 52, or an Address to the Governor under Standing Order 53, be called on forthwith, the question is to be decided without amendment or debate except a statement by the mover and a statement by a Minister not exceeding five minutes each.
- (4) Where a standing order or other order of the House is suspended by the House in whole or in part, any subsequent procedural motion is to be put without amendment or debate.

**(8) Lapsed questions—SO 106**

- (1) That, for the remainder of the current session, Standing Order 106 be amended to read as follows:

**106 Lapsed question**

Debate on a lapsed question may be resumed, by motion on notice, at the place where it was interrupted.

- (2) That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders, for the remainder of the current session:

If the proceedings of the House are interrupted by lack of a quorum and consequent adjournment of the House, the resumption of the debate will be an order of the day for the next day of sitting, and when the order is called on the proceedings will be resumed at the point where they were interrupted.

**(9) Tabling of reports and documents when House not sitting—SO 55**

That, for the remainder of the current session and unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 55 be amended to read as follows:

- (1) Where, under any Act, a report or other document is required to be tabled in the House, and the House is not sitting, such report or document may be lodged with the Clerk.
- (2) Any report or document lodged with the Clerk is:
- (a) on presentation, and for all purposes, deemed to have been laid before the House;
  - (b) to be printed by authority of the Clerk;
  - (c) for all purposes, deemed to be a document published by order or under authority of the House; and
  - (d) to be recorded in the *Minutes of Proceedings* of the House.
- (3) A report or other document which is not required to be tabled in the House according to legislation may not be lodged with the Clerk when the House has been prorogued.

**(10) Pecuniary Interest—SO 210 (10)**

That, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 210 (10) be amended to read:

No member may take part in a committee inquiry where the member has a direct pecuniary interest in the inquiry of the committee, unless it is in common with the general public, or a class of persons within the general public, or it is on a matter of state policy.

**(11) Quorums—SO 29 and 30**

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders, for the remainder of the current session Standing Orders 29 and 30 be varied to read as follows:

**29 Quorum at commencement of sitting**

- (1) If there is no quorum present when the Chair is taken at the time appointed for the meeting of the House, the bells will again ring for five minutes. If there is still no quorum present the President will adjourn the House until a later hour of the day or the next sitting day.
- (2) A member who enters the Chamber at or after the time appointed for the meeting of the Council may not withdraw until a quorum is formed or the House is adjourned.
- (3) When the House is adjourned for lack of a quorum, the names of the members present will be entered in the *Minutes of Proceedings*.

**30 Quorum during sitting**

- (1) If it appears, on the report of a division of the House by the tellers, that a quorum is not present, the President will adjourn the House until a later hour of the day or the next sitting day. No decision of the House will be considered to have been reached by that division.
- (2) When the Chair of Committees informs the President that a quorum is not present in committee, the bells will ring for five minutes. The President will then count the House, and if a quorum is still not present, will adjourn the House until a later hour of the day or the next sitting day. However, if a quorum is then present, the President will leave the Chair and the committee resume.
- (3) If a member draws attention to the lack of a quorum, the bells will be rung until a quorum is formed but for no longer than five minutes. If after five minutes a quorum is not present, the President will adjourn the House until a later hour of the day or the next sitting day.



- (4) When the attention of the President, or the Chair of Committees, has been called to the absence of a quorum, a member may not leave until the House or committee has been counted.
- (5) The doors of the House will be unlocked while the President is counting the House.
- (6) When the House has adjourned for lack of a quorum the names of the members present will be entered in the *Minutes of Proceedings*.

**(12) Postponement of items in Order of Precedence—SO 188**

That, for the remainder of the current session and unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 188 be amended to read as follows:

- (1) A notice of motion in the order of precedence may only be postponed once. A notice of motion postponed for a second time will be removed from the order of precedence and returned to its position outside the order of precedence.
- (2) This sessional order does not apply to notices of motions for bills.

**(13) Expiry of private members' business notices of motions**

- (1) That, for the remainder of the current session and unless otherwise ordered, a private members' business notice of motion outside the Order of Precedence that has remained on the *Notice Paper* for 20 sitting days without being moved will be removed from the *Notice Paper*.
- (2) This sessional order does not apply to notices of motions for bills or for the disallowance of statutory rules.

**(14) Debate on motions—SO 186**

That, for the remainder of the current session and unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 186 be amended to read as follows:

**Debate on motions**

- (1) An item of private members' business, other than a bill, must not receive more than two hours of debate.
- (2) When an item other than a bill is being considered:
  - (a) the mover of the motion may speak for not more than 20 minutes; and
  - (b) any other member may speak for not more than 15 minutes.
- (3) When an item other than a bill is not earlier disposed of, at 10 minutes before the end of the time provided for the consideration of the item, the President is to interrupt proceedings to allow the mover of the motion to speak in reply for not more than five minutes. The President will then put every question necessary to dispose of the motion, forthwith and successively without further amendment or debate, unless the motion is withdrawn as provided by the standing orders.

**(15) Conduct of the draw—SO 185**

That, for the remainder of the current session and unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 185 be varied as follows:

- (1) A member who has an item of private members' business in the Order of Precedence may substitute for that item, an item of private members' business outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of that member.
- (2) A member substituting an item in the Order of Precedence must hand a signed notification of the substitution to one of the Clerks at the Table during a sitting of the House.
- (3) Notification is to be given no later than the last sitting day in the week preceding the next day on which general business has precedence under the sessional orders.
- (4) Once a motion has been moved, it cannot be substituted.

**(16) Time limits to debate on Government bills**

That, for the remainder of the current session and unless otherwise ordered, the following time limits will apply to debate on Government bills:

- (1) Where there is debate on the question for the second or third reading of a bill the following time limits will apply:
  - (a) the lead Government and lead Opposition speakers may not speak for more than 40 minutes;
  - (b) any other member and the mover in reply may not speak for more than 20 minutes; and
  - (c) a member may move that that time limit be extended by not more than 10 minutes, and such a motion shall forthwith be put without debate.

- (2) (a) In Committee of the Whole members may speak more than once on the same question, provided that each contribution does not exceed 15 minutes; and
- (b) where the speech of a member is interrupted by the provisions of (2) (a), the member speaking may seek the leave of the House to continue speaking for a period of no longer than 15 minutes.

**(17) Cut-off date for Government bills**

That, during the present session and notwithstanding anything contained in the standing or sessional orders, and unless otherwise ordered, the following procedures apply to the passage of Government bills:

- (1) Where a bill is introduced by a Minister, or is received from the Legislative Assembly after 13 November 2014 (Spring Session) debate on the motion for the second reading is to be adjourned at the conclusion of the speech of the Minister moving the motion, and the resumption of the debate is to be made an Order of the Day for the first sitting day in 2015.
- (2) However, if after the first reading, a Minister declares a bill to be an urgent bill and copies have been circulated to members, the question "That the bill be considered an urgent bill" is to be decided without amendment or debate, except a statement not exceeding 10 minutes each by a Minister and the Leader of the Opposition or a member nominated by the Leader of the Opposition, and two crossbench members not of the same party and not exceeding five minutes each. If that question is agreed to, the second reading debate and subsequent stages may proceed forthwith or at any time during any sitting of the House.

**(18) Extension of debate time for private members' business**

That:

- (a) for the remainder of the current session and unless otherwise ordered, when a private members' motion is interrupted to allow the mover to speak in reply, the mover, or any member who has not already spoken in debate, may move a motion, without notice, to extend the time for the debate and to set time limits for each subsequent speaker in debate; and
- (b) on a motion moved under this sessional order members may not speak for more than five minutes, and if the debate is not concluded after the expiration of 30 minutes after the moving of the motion the question on the motion will then be put.

**(19) Budget Estimates 2014-2015—Take Note**

That, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered:

- (1) Each speaker on the motion to take note of the budget estimates for 2014-2015 is to be limited to 15 minutes.
- (2) Debate on the motion to take note of the budget estimates is to take precedence after debate on committee reports on Tuesdays.
- (3) The debate on the budget estimates is to be interrupted at 7.00 p.m. The interrupted debate is to stand adjourned and be set down on the *Business Paper* for the next day on which it has precedence.

**(20) Presentation of petitions—SO 68**

That, for the remainder of the current session and unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 68 be varied by inserting after paragraph (9):

- "(10) The Minister must table a response within 35 calendar days of a petition being received by the House if that petition has been signed by 500 or more persons.
- (11) If the House is not sitting at the time at which the Minister seeks to table the response in the House, the Minister may present the response to the Clerk.
- (12) A response presented to the Clerk is:
  - (a) on presentation, and for all purposes, deemed to have been laid before the House;
  - (b) to be printed by authority of the Clerk;
  - (c) for all purposes, deemed to be a document published by order or under the authority of the House;
  - (d) to be recorded in the *Minutes of the Proceedings* of the House; and
  - (e) to be forwarded by the Clerk to the member who lodged the petition."

**RESTORATION OF BUSINESS OF THE PREVIOUS SESSION****Restoration of Business to the *Notice Paper*****Motion, by leave, by the Hon. Duncan Gay agreed to:**

- (1) That the following notices of motions and orders of the day, interrupted by the close of the previous session, be restored to the *Notice Paper* in the order in which they last appeared and at the stage they had reached in the previous session, including the same adjournment or interruption status, postponement number, expiration status, member speaking and debate times:
  - (a) Business of the House—Notice of motion No. 1;
  - (b) Government business—Notice of motion No. 1;
  - (c) Committee reports—Orders of the Day;
  - (d) Government business—Order of the Day for the take note of the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2014-2015;
  - (e) private members' business items in and outside the Order of Precedence;
  - (f) bill referred to standing committee; and
  - (g) contingent notices of motions.
- (2) That, according to Standing Order 159, the following bills, interrupted by the close of the previous session, be restored to the *Notice Paper* in the order in which they last appeared and at the stage they had reached in the previous session, including the same adjournment or interruption status, postponement number, member speaking and debate times:
  - (a) Government business—Order of the Day No. 17 regarding the Industrial Relations Amendment (Dispute Orders) Bill 2012; and
  - (b) all private members' bills in and outside the Order of Precedence.

**RESTORATION OF BUSINESS OF THE PREVIOUS SESSION****Bills Originating in the Legislative Council****Motion, by leave, by the Hon. Duncan Gay agreed to:**

That, under Standing Order 159, the Legislative Council requests that the following bills, forwarded to the Legislative Assembly during the previous session of the Parliament and which were not dealt with because of the prorogation of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, be restored to the Legislative Assembly's *Business Paper*:

Mutual Recognition (Automatic Licensed Occupations Recognition) Bill 2014  
Road Transport Amendment (Alcohol and Drug Testing) Bill 2014  
TAFE Changes Moratorium (Secure Future for Public Provision of Vocational Education and Training) Bill 2014

**Message forwarded to the Legislative Assembly advising it of the resolution.****RESTORATION OF BUSINESS OF THE PREVIOUS SESSION****Committee on the Ombudsman, the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission Reference****Motion, by leave, by the Hon. Duncan Gay agreed to:**

That the Legislative Council requests that the message of 29 May 2012 regarding a reference to the Committee on the Ombudsman, the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission, forwarded to the Legislative Assembly during the previous session of the Parliament and which was not dealt with because of the prorogation of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, be restored to the Legislative Assembly's *Business Paper*.

**Message forwarded to the Legislative Assembly advising it of the resolution.**

## RESTORATION OF BUSINESS OF THE PREVIOUS SESSION

### Unanswered Questions

#### Motion, by leave, by the Hon. Duncan Gay agreed to:

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders, or the prorogation of the House on Monday 8 September 2014:

- (a) all written questions remaining unanswered as at the prorogation of the House on Monday 8 September 2014 be restored to the *Questions and Answers* paper with answers to these questions on notice being provided within 35 calendar days after the question was first published as if prorogation had not intervened; and
- (b) answers be provided for all unanswered questions without notice as at the prorogation of the House on Monday 8 September 2014 within 35 calendar days after the question was asked in the House as if prorogation had not intervened.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

### Time Limits for Debate on the Address-in-Reply

#### Motion, by leave, by the Hon. Duncan Gay agreed to:

That for the debate on the Address-in-Reply the following speaker times apply:

- (a) mover and seconder may speak for no longer than 10 minutes each;
- (b) a representative from each political party represented in the Legislative Council may speak for no longer than 10 minutes; and
- (c) all other members may speak for no longer than five minutes.

## GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

**The PRESIDENT:** I report the receipt of the Speech made this day by Her Excellency the Governor and which will be recorded in the *Minutes of Proceedings*.

#### **The Hon. JENNIFER GARDINER** [3.22 p.m.]: I move:

That the following Address be adopted and presented by the Whole House to the Governor, in reply to the Speech which Her Excellency had been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament:

*To Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, Dame of the Order of Australia, Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Governor of the State of New South Wales in the Commonwealth of Australia.*

#### **May it Please Your Excellency—**

We, the members of the Legislative Council of the State of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our thanks for Your Excellency's Speech, and to express our loyalty to Australia and the people of New South Wales.

We offer Your Excellency our sincere congratulations on undertaking the duties of your office with distinction and devotion and extend to Your Excellency and Sir Nicholas the warm regards of the House.

Mr President, as you mentioned in another forum today, the Governor's Speech in opening the second session of the Fifty-fifth Parliament was a touching and special Speech. It is true that in our Westminster system the Governor's Speech is normally written by the government of the day. But one can tell from the text of the Governor's Speech delivered in this place today that there was a certain personal touch to it. The Governor's Speech demonstrates her very character.

The swearing-in of Professor Marie Bashir as our thirty-seventh Governor at Government House 13½ years ago was a very special day for me. It was a great occasion when a distinguished citizen of New South Wales, a country woman, became the first woman Governor of New South Wales. That alone made it a very special occasion. Little did I know, nor did anybody else, I suspect, there at Government House that day how beloved and indefatigable this new Governor would become. Many have paid tribute to the Governor's years as

our head of State. At the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, New South Wales Branch, luncheon today, which followed the opening of the Parliament by Her Excellency, it was interesting to note the number of members of Parliament from both Houses and from all parts of the political spectrum in this State and how when tributes were paid to Her Excellency there was such a vigorous nodding of heads—it was heartfelt and genuine. This lady is so deeply respected.

Her Excellency has defined the role of Governor in the twenty-first century. The list of descriptors of Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir—all of them rolled gold—is very extensive: academic, professor, eminent psychiatrist and a patron of the arts, those popular and those obscure. She has been an ambassador for New South Wales. In the 1970s Marie Bashir went to China and she discerned then and there, on her first visit, that that nation would rise to be the powerful nation it is today. She has been particularly attentive to the relationship between New South Wales and China as well as between New South Wales and other parts of South-East Asia.

Her Excellency has continued to work in many ways behind the scenes and in public for causes which have been her life's work and which demonstrate her very character. The Governor's acts of kindness to strangers define who she is, where she came from and why she is so deeply loved by the people of this State. In her advocacy of reconciliation with our Indigenous peoples the Governor has been an exemplar, as well as in her care and compassion for the homeless—on one occasion stopping the official car to ask a man lying in the gutter if she could be of help and then following that up and being of help; in her care of refugees; in her treatment of and help to those suffering mental illness; and in her profound regard for those who serve in our defence forces, for their service, their sacrifices and their ongoing mental wellbeing when they return from terrible theatres of war.

Her Excellency has said that she believes that the three most important words in the English language after "I love you", when truly meant, are the words "Lest we forget". She regards that not just as an expression of remembrance of those who have served in the name of Australia and New South Wales but also as a reminder to others that Australians and people in New South Wales will never forget and a warning not to trespass on our sovereignty because we will defend our people.

Professor Marie Bashir is probably Narrandera's most famous daughter—the daughter of emigrant Lebanese parents. It is her Narrandera background that the Governor says defines her, and indeed it does. She had a loving family who encouraged her to excel. But Narrandera was also a town and a district which she believes taught her a great deal. Of course, Narrandera has a substantial Indigenous population, and it was there that the future Governor learned from her Indigenous friends of their gentleness, humility and elements of their culture, which she believes we can still learn from today. She took lessons from them, and throughout her time as Governor of New South Wales she has showed many people the way to reconciliation—something that is important to her. Indeed, that is the core of practically every speech I have heard her make. She is happy that significant progress in that regard has been made.

In her opening Speech today the Governor, among other things, said, "Perhaps the more enduring images of pride which one encounters as the Governor can be related to celebrations in recent years, celebrations of unity and history, in anniversary commemorations, in various townships, including visits to schools. Visits have included Brewarrina, Brungle, Coonabarabran, Goulburn, Menindee, Narrandera, South Grafton, Warren and more." Of course, she could have said many, many more. She tells the story of visiting Menindee; she visited there on a number of occasions. One day she went to the central school and a little girl there said, "I bet you haven't been to Coomealla." The Governor said, "Actually, I don't even know where it is. Where is it?" The little girl told her that it was further south from Menindee, and said, "I bet you won't come to Coomealla." The Governor said, "Firstly, I have to find out where it is and, secondly, it would not be appropriate for me to just turn up uninvited. But if I got an invitation, say, from the school at Coomealla I'd be delighted to go there."

In due course the Governor got an invitation to the school at Coomealla; she turned up and there was her little friend, who by this stage called her "Marie". She befriended the little girl and said to her, "I want you to think of me as your grandmother. I want you to get a good education, and I want you to study hard." The little girl still keeps in touch with the Governor, and shortly she will graduate as a teacher from the University of Ballarat—something that delights the Governor no end. Governor Bashir has been an adornment to our system of representative government in New South Wales, an adornment to the office of Governor, and an adornment to the State of New South Wales and to Australia. Like all others, I wish Her Excellency every bit of health and happiness in her post-governorship life, as I do to Sir Nicholas, who also has been a fantastic servant of the State of New South Wales.

**The Hon. AMANDA FAZIO** [3.32 p.m.]: It gives me great pleasure to second this motion. Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, AD, CVO, has been a wonderful representative of the State of New South Wales. The three words that come to mind in relation to Her Excellency are compassion, empathy and intelligence. Compassion and empathy are not necessarily qualities that come to mind when thinking about the role of Governor of New South Wales, but these wonderful personal qualities have set apart the contribution of Dame Marie Bashir from that of some other governors. Her Excellency's concern for those less fortunate in life, for those suffering mental illness and for Indigenous communities is legendary and highly commendable.

Her Excellency's keen intelligence has helped her to rise to the many distinguished positions that she has held during her life, and her training as a psychiatrist came in very handy when considering whether prisoners held at Her Majesty's pleasure should be released on licence. I think that was a bit of a shock for some people on the Executive Council. I now turn to the achievements of Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir. Dame Marie Roslyn Bashir, AD, CVO, is the second longest serving Governor of New South Wales. She was born in Narrandera on 1 December 1930. She graduated from the University of Sydney in 1956 and held various medical positions, with a particular emphasis on psychiatry. A Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Professor Bashir's main interests have included child and adolescent depression, mental health issues affecting refugee and immigrant children, juvenile justice and Aboriginal health.

Throughout her life the modest, quietly spoken daughter of Lebanese-born parents has continued to be an inspiration and is celebrated for not only her contribution to public life but also her distinguished medical career and her love and support of the arts. In 1994 Professor Bashir was appointed the clinical director of mental health services for the Central Sydney Area Health Service, a position she held until she was appointed Governor on 1 March 2001. Her appointment as director came at a time of key reforms in mental health service delivery, which contributed to substantial change in the provision of public sector mental health services. She also served as the seventeenth Chancellor of the University of Sydney from 2007 to 2012. Professor Bashir has had a special interest over many years in Indigenous health and the welfare of Australia's first people, and has travelled extensively to visit remote communities in central Australia, the Kimberley and Arnhem Land to gain a closer understanding of issues of culture and history which impact significantly on health.

In partnership with Redfern's Aboriginal Medical Service, she established the Aboriginal mental health clinic, providing regular counselling and support to the city's Indigenous people and in particular Indigenous youth. Her appointment as Governor by Premier Bob Carr was welcomed by both sides of politics, and commended in a *Sydney Morning Herald* editorial as "an inspiring choice", noting that she would be a powerful advocate for the powerless. At her inauguration Premier Carr said:

We are fortunate and privileged to have a woman of such quality.

In terms of experience and understanding, he said:

There has never been a more highly qualified governor of New South Wales.

Professor Bashir told Beirut's *Daily Star* newspaper at the time that her appointment was "symbolic of the way our country is advancing ... that it could consider asking not only a woman ... from a non-English speaking background but a woman whose work was in a field that is not always popular". On the day of her inauguration she agreed to become patron of the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service, which addresses mental and social issues in the LGBT community. This was the first time a New South Wales Governor had supported a gay organisation. In 2005 Her Excellency opened the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras festival at a concert in Hyde Park, saying the event fostered "that sense of freedom which springs from the considerable diversity within our society—diversity of race, religion, culture and also sexual orientation ... We must never take these—things for granted because most of you would agree that across the world today an extraordinary winding back to many previously discarded attitudes is taking place, not only affecting gay and lesbian groups, but women's health and many aspects of social justice."

To name just a handful of the many awards and achievements Her Excellency has been recognised for, she was named Mother of the Year in 1971, at the same time becoming Lady Mayoress of Sydney when her husband, Sir Nicholas Shehadie, was appointed mayor. In 1988 she was appointed an Officer and in 2001 a Companion in the Order of Australia. She was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003. Having studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and being a proficient violinist, in 2002 Her Excellency was invited to become the patron of the Sydney University Graduate Choir. She is also a patron of Opera Australia and the

Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Sydney Philharmonic Choirs. In 2003 Professor Bashir received the Mental Health Princess Award, awarded by Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana of Thailand for contribution to collaborative mental health programs between Australia and Thailand. She was made an honorary member of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in 2004, and was also named as one of Australia's Living National Treasures.

In 2006 she was invested by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order [CVO]. In 2009 Her Excellency was invested as a Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur by His Excellency M. Michel Filhol, Ambassador, on behalf of Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic. In 2014 the new French President, François Hollande, promoted her to the rank of Officer in the Legion d'Honneur.

Her Excellency was invested with the Lebanese National Order of Cedar, Grand Cordon Grade, in 2012 by the President of Lebanon, General Michel Suleiman, at Government House Sydney during his State visit to Australia. In the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours, Her Excellency was appointed a Dame of the Order of Australia for extraordinary and pre-eminent achievement and merit in service to the administration, public life and people of New South Wales, to medicine, particularly as an advocate for improving mental health outcomes for the young, marginalised and disadvantaged, to international relations for the promotion of collaborative health programs and as a leader in tertiary education. On receiving the award she told the ABC:

Actually the joy, the honour, is working amongst the people, working amongst those that I have had the privilege of working amongst since I graduated in medicine. I think that says it all. The greatest privilege has been being trusted by people.

Dame Marie is one of the country's most loved governors, and I believe an inspiration to all Australians. She will step down as Governor next month to be replaced by Australian Defence Force chief David Hurley. Of course, if I had my way, as Dame Marie Bashir is the first female Governor of New South Wales, it is only fair if we have female governors for the next 200 years to equalise things, but obviously that is not a popular opinion.

During her term in office, Her Excellency has had the best numberplate in New South Wales and one of which I have always been envious. I hope that the Minister for Roads and Freight will have a replica mounted and presented to Her Excellency as a keepsake. I wish Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, AD, CVO, and Sir Nicholas Shehadie, AC, OBE, a very long, happy and healthy retirement and hope that they really appreciate the affection and respect that they have engendered during Her Excellency's term in office.

**The Hon. DUNCAN GAY** (Minister for Roads and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [3.42 p.m.]: I, like others, speak today about a great woman who has contributed immeasurably to the great State of New South Wales. I congratulate the Hon. Jennifer Gardiner and the Hon. Amanda Fazio on their contributions in the Address-in-Reply and the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition who spoke so eloquently at lunch today. Today Her Excellency made a terrific Speech. One of my staff looked at some of the previous speeches and the common thread was "nice lady; pity she had to put that rubbish out there today when she spoke", because her Speech had been written by the Government. If it had been our Government I would not have said it was rubbish but equally it could not have been as good as the words of the Governor today. Her Excellency's words echoed what a truly great woman she is.

We were of a mind to like Professor Marie Bashir before she was appointed Governor. Sometimes we are judged by our parents or by our spouse, but in her case she had the best ambassador of all—Alex Shehadie who was known by almost all members of this House as a hardworking and respected staff member of the Legislative Council. We were willing to like the new Governor but what was there not to like? Her Excellency has served the State as Governor for 13 years, which makes her one of the longest serving governors in the State's history. What a fantastic 13 years we have had. Sir Arthur Roden Cutler was the longest serving Governor of New South Wales for 15 years. In Her Excellency's time as Governor there have been six Premiers, and she is ending her term as the people's Governor.

I have been honoured to work with Her Excellency as a member of the Executive Council and more recently as Vice-President during which time, when I least expected it, I would be asked probing questions by the Governor. My advice is that one should never relax in the presence of a governor at future council meetings. But most importantly I take this opportunity to honour a woman who has dedicated her life to the service of the community. This is reflected in the long list of honours she has received and the numerous positions in which she has served. Her Excellency has received some of the highest honours in Australia and from around the world.

In 1988 Her Excellency was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia and in 2001 a Companion in the Order of Australia. She was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003. In 2006 she was invested by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order [CVO]. In 2009 Her Excellency was invested as a Chevalier in the National Order of the Legion of Honour. In 2014, she was promoted to the rank of Officer in the Legion of Honour. In 2012 Her Excellency was invested with the Lebanese National Order of the Cedar, Grand Cordon Grade. In June 2014 Her Excellency was named as a Dame of the Order of Australia, one of only two great women to receive that honour. They are certainly adornments to the Order, rather than the Order being an adornment to them.

Her Excellency received other awards from a diverse range of community organisations. In 2001 she was made Deputy Prior and Dame of the Order of St John. In 2004 she was named Life Member of the National Trust of Australia, New South Wales. In 2007 Her Excellency was named Honorary Life Member of the Master Plumbers and Mechanical Contractors' Association of New South Wales. In 2008 she became an Honorary Member of the Toukley and District Senior Citizens' Club, and in 2014 received an honorary Life Membership of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. In 2014 she received the Silver Kangaroo Award—Scouting's highest acknowledgement—and in 2014 she was given honorary life membership of the Sydney Jewish Museum. I am sure Her Excellency rated those awards from communities with the major awards from home and abroad. These honours reflect the high regard in which she is held by people from all walks of life.

I know from conversations that Her Excellency was born and went to school in Narrandera, a true country town if ever there was. We in this House aspire to decency, wisdom and wit, although it is not often that we come across someone who embodies all of those things that we aspire to and, all too often, do not achieve. If anyone in this building, across the street, in the suburbs of Sydney or in regional New South Wales was asked to describe Marie Bashir, the answer would likely be that she is a living treasure. Indeed she was named as one of Australia's National Living Treasures.

As the first female Governor and the first Governor of Lebanese descent, Her Excellency is an inspiration to the kid from the country with big dreams or the new citizen determined to make Australia home. From her time at Rivendell Child, Adolescent and Family Service, to establishing the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern, she has been a strong advocate for Indigenous health, mental health, juvenile justice and education. But what distinguishes Her Excellency is also her ability to connect communities far and wide. With her, the role of Governor has become one not just of ceremony but of advocacy and healing. In approximately 2000 I remember attending a lunch with about a dozen people, including Sir Nicholas, hosted by John Parker, former head of Rural Press, at the Union Club and the conversation ranged far and wide.

At one stage the conversation turned to who was going to be the next Governor of New South Wales, with the discussion including a long list of men from industry, the Army, the armed forces, the church and elsewhere. Sir Nicholas, with one of his wry smiles, said, "What about a woman?" There was a bit of a guffaw before they turned their minds to it. They came up with a short list, with Dame Leonie Kramer, interestingly, at the head of the list. That was the only comment from Sir Nicholas. I have often thought about that conversation and wondered whether Sir Nicholas knew at the time what was going to happen. Former Governor Lachlan Macquarie said in his farewell speech in 1821:

When I took Charge of this Government, on the 1st of January 1810, I found the Colony in a state of rapid deterioration; — threatened with a famine; — discord and party spirit prevailing to a great degree; — all the public buildings in a state of dilapidation and decay; very few roads and bridges, and those few very bad; — the inhabitants, generally very poor; and commerce and public credit at the lowest ebb.

I now have the happiness to reflect, that I leave it in a very different condition.

Whilst we cannot say Her Excellency found New South Wales threatened with famine in the twenty-first century, we can say that she served through one of the worst droughts that this State has seen on record. Perhaps also the comment of "very few roads and bridges ... commerce and public credit at the lowest ebb" has quite a familiar ring to it at various times. But we can say with confidence that Her Excellency has left New South Wales in a much better condition than she found it, with a lasting legacy of strength, knowledge, kindness and care.

Her trips to the country were the ones that epitomise how she reacted with the people. In fact, only the week before last she was in Parkes. There was a lot of love for her from the people of Parkes, including three of my granddaughters who live in Parkes. One said, "I have been to your house", while another one perched herself on the Governor's knee and refused to leave. There was a lot of love there. She will remember that for life, as we will remember the Governor.



**The Hon. LUKE FOLEY** (Leader of the Opposition) [3.52 p.m.]: On behalf of Labor members I reply to the opening remarks of Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, Dame of the Order of Australia, Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, the thirty-seventh Governor of New South Wales. The sheer length of Her Excellency's full title says much of the person, the career and the service that we celebrate today, although I trust the Governor will forgive me if I confine her title to "Her Excellency" from here on. I trust that today's debate will surely be the most agreeable this Chamber has seen in some time. In a House where we are often singing from different hymn sheets, today we give voice to a united chorus such is the respect and admiration that Her Excellency effortlessly commands across our political parties and across our State.

In fact, to recall a time when the Houses of this Parliament spoke with such universal agreement and admiration one might go to *Hansard* to see the remarks of members at the announcement of Governor Bashir's appointment. The then Opposition leader, Ms Chikarovski, lauded the Governor designate's obvious qualifications and opined that Professor Bashir would set a new standard for the office. The then National Party leader, Mr Souris, announced that he "could not think of a better appointment". Former Opposition leader, Mr Collins, welcomed an "impeccably qualified" and "ideal choice" and noted that when he had confronted difficult issues as health Minister, the first person he spoke to was often Professor Bashir. Outside this Parliament the praise was no less united. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on a "warm-hearted" press conference, surely a rarity in this town, although journalist David Marr made it clear that the warmth of the media was towards the Governor and not the parliamentarians when he posed the question:

What could be more valuable behind the scenes in Macquarie St than this woman's unique expertise with troubled adolescents?

I thank David Marr for the reflection, but striking a higher note, the *Sydney Morning Herald* also predicted that the Governor would be a "powerful advocate for the powerless". It is wonderful to see the *Sydney Morning Herald* get something so right, for that is indeed what happened. From the outset Governor Bashir brought her personal and professional interests to bear in the role like few before her. She immediately and openly shaped her duties to include a focus on Indigenous health, mental health, social inclusion and diversity. She did so in a way that reshaped the role of Governor while respecting its every tradition. Given her background, this was perhaps not surprising.

From the outset of her career Professor Bashir had constantly sought ways to use her considerable intellect and knowledge to the benefit of those least likely to otherwise benefit. Once established in medicine, she sought out the then greater challenge—the emerging field of adolescent mental health. Once practising in that field she constantly addressed issues of access, equity and fairness within health administration. She looked to advancement in child and adolescent depression, mental health issues affecting refugee and immigrant children, juvenile justice and Indigenous health. These are each deeply difficult challenges, matters that many a busy practitioner or academic might wish to place in the too-hard basket—but not Marie Bashir. Indeed, it appears that one man's too-hard basket is this woman's in-tray.

Professor Bashir oversaw substantial change in the provision of public sector mental health services in Sydney. She utilised her academic position to establish collaborative teaching programs in Vietnam and Thailand. Indeed, in all of her professional roles she looked not only to the substantial duties she already had but also to how she could extend those in a new direction. While never political, she was a natural reformer. She is also a pragmatic reformer. The deep respect and love she attracts in Australia's Indigenous community derives not only from her extensive knowledge of Indigenous culture, history and issues—a knowledge that she has acquired through extensive travel to speak to communities on the ground—but also from how she has converted great intellect and goodwill into real and innovative solutions.

Her partnership with the Aboriginal Medical Service to establish the Aboriginal mental health units providing clinics and counselling across Sydney is but one example. Her work chairing the Implementation Group on Mental Health to find practical solutions to extend this support to regional and remote communities is another. It is perhaps no surprise that this career brought her to be a natural choice for recommendation when the Carr Labor Government sought a new Governor in 2000. Those close to the former Premier have remarked that Marie Bashir was the only name on his short list. While much was made at the time of the fact that the choice was a woman, Marie Bashir viewed the significance of her appointment on many other levels. She recalled:

It seemed to me to be symbolic about the way our country was advancing in a sophisticated manner ... that we would ask not only a woman ... but a woman whose work is in a field that is not always popular.

It is not popular to work in mental health, to work with the disadvantaged, with indigenous people.

It is not always popular to have children and work, to be from a non-English-speaking background, to be a woman of opinion.

Premier Carr believed that all these characteristics made Marie Bashir the perfect representative of the diverse, intelligent and mature State that New South Wales had grown into after 36 governorships. So much so that he felt to choose otherwise would be an insult to the history of our State. Of course it cannot be stressed enough that no amount of symbolism would ever substitute the sheer weight of substance that Professor Bashir would bring to the office. As Premier Carr put it at the time, "In terms of direct experience, knowledge and understanding over a range of issues and problems of deep community concern there has never been a more highly qualified Governor of New South Wales."

It goes without saying that the faith of the Premier, the Government he led, his Parliament and the community who received her appointment so warmly were all very well placed. Her Excellency has not just been a great Governor or a popular Governor; she has also reshaped the very role of Governor. As with her professional and academic roles, she has somehow found a way to deliver every requirement and tradition of her office yet at the same time to innovate and extend the office into new directions. She has done so openly and intelligently, shying away from the broadcast tools of media and embracing direct interaction with the people of the State. This makes her great popularity all the more remarkable. For if a New South Wales citizen admires Her Excellency it is not through the glitz of television or Twitter but by virtue of the direct connection she has made through her great many engagements with our diverse communities.

Her Excellency has contemporised the role of Governor of New South Wales, yet in doing so has deepened and enriched the rich tradition the office holds in our constitutional democracy. Mr President, all Governors bring their professional identities to the role. Perhaps those of military background naturally bring command and tradition and those of a judicial background naturally bring consideration and constitutional reasoning. Governor Bashir was a professor by background and, true to the word's origin, she naturally opened New South Wales to new conversations and new illuminations. Both the office and our State are the richer for her remarkable service. Her Majesty's loyal Opposition sincerely thanks and salutes Her Excellency Governor Marie Bashir.

**The Hon. JOHN AJAKA** (Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for the Illawarra) [4.02 p.m.]: I will give an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, AD, CVO, Governor of New South Wales. I congratulate the Hon. Jennifer Gardiner, Chair of Committees, on moving this motion and I endorse the sentiments she has expressed. It was an honour for me to hear the Speech of Her Excellency in this Chamber, the oldest Parliament in Australia. I thank Her Excellency for her most gracious Speech and I am sure she will be commended by each and every member of this House. After hearing the Governor's Speech one recalls the rich heritage Australia has received from the Westminster parliamentary system. We are reminded of and appreciate the importance of the constitutional form of Government we have inherited and its pivotal role in improving our society and community. It is a privilege to have this opportunity to pay tribute to distinguished service rendered to this State by Her Excellency.

Her Excellency was the first woman to be appointed Governor of New South Wales and is one of only three people to have served in the vice-regal post for more than 10 years. She is also the first Governor of any Australian State who is of Australian-Lebanese descent. As the first Australian of Lebanese descent to be elected as a Liberal to the New South Wales Parliament and as the leader of the Liberal Party in this House I extend my thanks to Her Excellency for her valuable involvement in the Australian-Lebanese community, the Aboriginal community and the culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and for being such a strong voice for multicultural Australia. The Australian-Lebanese community within our State has benefited profoundly from the leadership and inspiration of our Governor. Of course the entire community of New South Wales has equally benefited.

New South Wales is honoured to have had as its thirty-seventh Governor a woman of such distinguished public service, personal qualities and professional accomplishment. Her Excellency's hard work and immense contribution to the Australian-Lebanese community is reflected in the multitude of awards she has received that strengthens the bond between the citizens of New South Wales and Lebanon. Such awards include the Grand Officer in the National Order of the Cedar, the Lebanese National Order of the Cedar Cordon Grand, presented by the President of the Republic of Lebanon, His Excellency General Michel Suleiman, and the Writers' Council Award in Beirut, Lebanon.

It was an honour for me to be sworn in as a Minister by Her Excellency some 12 months ago in the presence of my dear mother, Violet Ajaka, my wife, Mary Ajaka, and my six beautiful daughters. It was a very special moment for me to see my mother standing with Her Excellency at Government House after the swearing-in ceremony. My mother came to this country in the early 1950s from Lebanon unable to speak a word of English and

was there conversing in the English language with Her Excellency about New South Wales politics. I have no doubt that Her Excellency has been New South Wales' most loved Governor. During her term Her Excellency's extraordinary work, her genuine interest in local communities and caring nature has endeared her to people everywhere—city, regional and country. I have lost count of how many times I have heard people sing her praises.

I have had the privilege to attend numerous functions over the years at which Her Excellency was the guest of honour. I witnessed firsthand the high regard and affection in which Her Excellency is held by the people of this State and the high regard and affection Her Excellency has for the people of this State. I have also had the honour and privilege to serve on the Executive Council presided over by Her Excellency. It has been a great pleasure to attend meetings alongside Her Excellency and discuss the positive policies and actions of this Government and, of course, current social issues. Her Excellency is full of compassion and humour and has a wide-ranging knowledge and interest in a multitude of social and community issues.

I acknowledge Sir Nicholas Shehadie, who continues to contribute greatly to the people of New South Wales. The active participation of Sir Nicholas in so many of the activities carried out by the Governor is a great tribute to both of them. They are true life partners. Sir Nicholas, also the son of Lebanese immigrants, is an inspiring leader and high achiever in Australian civic and sporting life. He served as captain of the Wallabies during 1953, 1956 and 1958, served as president of the Australian Rugby Union and chaired the Special Broadcasting Service. He also served as Lord Mayor of Sydney from 1973 to 1974. Sir Nicholas' service to the community, sport and media is to be highly commended.

I would like to assure the Governor that the Baird Government is seeking first and foremost to build a society in which each individual has the opportunity to achieve fulfilment. This will be possible when every man, woman and child, irrespective of their social or economic background, has maximum freedom of choice in their own life. We believe that all members of society should have equal access to the many services that this State Government provides. It is an honour for me to serve as part of the Baird Government as Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for the Illawarra.

As Her Excellency stated in her Speech, it is vital to assist and to support the most vulnerable citizens in our community—our seniors and people with disability—and that is precisely what this Government is doing. In just over three years, this Government has launched the NSW Ageing Strategy, a whole-of-government and whole-of-community strategy with a vision for the seniors of New South Wales. The aim of the NSW Ageing Strategy is to support our seniors to lead active, safe, healthy and rewarding lives. I am proud to be part of the first State Government to introduce the National Disability Insurance Scheme [NDIS], a generational and bipartisan reform focused on the individual needs and choices of people with disability. The scheme is all about giving people with disabilities the power and the supports they need to achieve their goals and aspirations. The NDIS is a revolutionary change for people with disability across the nation. Our Governor can be assured that this wonderful State of New South Wales is in good hands when it comes to assisting our seniors and people with disability.

This Government has clearly embarked on a mission to rebuild and transform this State. Again, I congratulate Her Excellency on her great contribution and service to the people of New South Wales. I wish her and Sir Nicholas a long and healthy future. I am sure they will continue to serve the best interests of the people of New South Wales. I am also sure that I speak on behalf of everyone in New South Wales in sincerely thanking them.

*[Business interrupted.]*

#### TEMPORARY CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

**The PRESIDENT:** I advise the House that the following members will serve as temporary chairs of committees during this session of Parliament: Ms Jan Barham, the Hon. Paul Green, the Hon. Trevor Khan, the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones and the Hon. Sarah Mitchell.

#### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

*[Business resumed.]*

**Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE** [4.12 p.m.]: I am very pleased on behalf of the Christian Democratic Party to take part in this Address-in-Reply debate and to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, a friend and an

outstanding Governor—Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, AD, CVO. As members know, the office of Governor of this State is the oldest public office in Australia, dating from 1786 when Captain Arthur Phillip was issued a commission appointing him Governor of the then Colony of New South Wales. More than two and a quarter centuries later, the Governor has an important constitutional and ceremonial role in the State and is closely involved in community activities and events. That was evident from the remarks made during the special luncheon held today when the Governor's service was recounted. Mention was made of the many receptions and dinners she has attended and the many country towns she has visited across this State. Her service has been remarkable.

In early 2001, on the recommendation of the then Premier, Bob Carr, Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, appointed Professor Marie Bashir as Governor of New South Wales, making her the first female Governor and the first Governor of any State of Lebanese descent. She was sworn in as Governor on 1 March 2001 and on 30 March she was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia. Her appointment was greeted with praise from all quarters, even from the *Sydney Morning Herald*. An editorial in that newspaper said that "her appointment was an inspired choice" and noted that she would be a powerful advocate for the powerless. That proved to be true given her deep concern for the Aboriginal people of this State and this nation. As we know, the Governor launched an Indigenous health initiative to support Indigenous medicine and nursing students. She was also a great supporter of reconciliation.

Professor Bashir was born in Narrandera, New South Wales. When my late wife Elaine had to retire from Parliament because of ill health, the Governor invited us to morning tea at Government House. We were both from working-class backgrounds and that invitation was both a thrill and unexpected. The Governor's humility and spirit has been clearly revealed over her life. I remember her telling us during that morning tea that when she was sent from Narrandera to Sydney to attend Cleveland Street Primary School she found that she was the only child wearing socks and shoes; the other children were all barefooted. Each day her grandmother would put on her socks and shoes, but when she arrived at school she would take them off. For the rest of the day she was barefooted and could identify with the other children. That demonstrates that from childhood she had a deep spirit of humility and was a caring soul. That spirit has been evident throughout her life and particularly over the past 13½ years in her role as Governor of New South Wales.

Professor Bashir was a medical graduate of the University of Sydney and a medical registrar at St Vincent's Hospital and Sydney Children's Hospital. She was also a fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. After completing her postgraduate studies in psychiatry, she was appointed to establish the Rivendell Child, Adolescent and Family Service to provide comprehensive specialist psychiatry services for young people with emotional and psychiatric problems. Her key interests have included child and adolescent depression, mental health issues affecting refugee and immigrant children, juvenile justice and Aboriginal health. In 1987 Professor Bashir was appointed director of Community Health Services in the central Sydney area, which enabled her to have closer access to primary health links with an emphasis on early childhood services, migrant and Indigenous health, the health needs of elderly people, and communicable illnesses. Health promotion and health education strategies through a population health model were also her key responsibility.

In 1993 Professor Bashir was appointed Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Sydney and in 1994 she was appointed the Clinical Director of Mental Health Services for the central Sydney area. This was a time of major reform in mental health service delivery that contributed to substantial changes in the provision of public sector mental health services. She also served on the examination committee of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and on the Regional Issues Committee. Having had a special interest over many years in Indigenous health, Professor Bashir travelled extensively to visit remote communities in Central Australia, the Kimberley and Arnhem Land to gain a greater understanding of Aboriginal culture and history, which have a significant impact on Indigenous health.

In 1995, in partnership with the Aboriginal Medical Service Redfern, Professor Bashir established the Aboriginal Mental Health Unit, which provides regular clinics and counselling at both the Aboriginal Medical Service in Sydney and mainstream centres. She also established links to some Indigenous rural communities. Professor Bashir has been very active in Indigenous health and in providing the best health services possible to Aboriginal people. In 2006 she was invested by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as the Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, CVO. Her Excellency also received the Paul Harris Fellow award from the Rotary Club of Sydney and was made an honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

She has received a number of awards from other nations because of her interest in and concern for the people of those nations. In particular, in 2012 she was invested with the Lebanese National Order of the Cedar, the Grand Cordon grade, by the President of the Republic of Lebanon. In 2013 she was awarded the Repair the World award by the Hadassah Australia Incorporated and the People's Health Medal for significant contribution to health development of Vietnam by the Ministry for Health. In June 2014 she was named as a Dame of the Order of Australia for extraordinary and pre-eminent achievement and merit in service to the administration, public life and people of New South Wales, to medicine, particularly as an advocate for improved mental health outcomes for the young, marginalised and disadvantaged, to international relations through the promotion of collaborative health programs and as a leader in tertiary education.

As members have noted, Professor Bashir is married to Sir Nicholas Shehadie, AC, OBE. He and I have had many discussions about the years we spent as students at the Cleveland Street High School. The Bashirs have two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren. Recently the Governor was involved in the service in Westminster Abbey to dedicate a stone in memory of Captain Arthur Phillip, the first Governor of New South Wales as "the founder of modern Australia". On many occasions Professor Bashir has publicly lamented the enduring legacy of the mistreatment of Aborigines since Phillip established a colony at Sydney Cove in 1788, yet on this occasion she praised Phillip for his determination to ensure the fair treatment of Aboriginal people. That is one issue for which we acknowledge her service. In conclusion, I pray, like other members, in her retirement that she will experience good health and happiness and many years of strength.

**Dr JOHN KAYE** [4.22 p.m.]: On behalf of The Greens I join members of this Chamber in thanking Professor the Honourable Marie Bashir for her service as Governor and to acknowledge the exceptional qualities she brought to public life and the extraordinarily positive impact those qualities have had on New South Wales. We wish her and Sir Nicholas a long and happy next phase of their life. I would not call it retirement. Knowing the two of them, I doubt whether it would come anywhere near what most of us imagine a retirement to be.

As a party dedicated to New South Wales becoming a republic, The Greens feel no embarrassment whatsoever in saying that Marie Bashir as Governor provided the moral leadership, support and gentle guidance to this State that we would hope a leader of a republic would also display. As with the former Governor-General Sir William Deane, Marie Bashir has been the exemplar of a modern, progressive, humanitarian, people-focused leader. Thirty-six men came before Marie Bashir as Governor, but she was a standout for what she did from the very start, not just because she was the first woman Governor of New South Wales—although that in itself is a significant achievement.

In fact, she participated in a neat reversal of patriarchy in New South Wales which had a female Governor, a female Premier, and a female President of the Legislative Council in a nation which had a female Governor-General and a female Prime Minister. There was not a young woman in this State or nation who did not hear the message that gender is no barrier to participation or to the fulfilment of a dream that a young woman might hold. Marie Bashir was a professor of medicine, a leader in clinical psychology and a governor, to name her most obvious achievements. She became a beacon to every young woman in New South Wales.

Marie Bashir, as many have observed, was born in Narrandera in rural New South Wales. As she told the ABC's 702 evening program during NAIDOC Week last year, she grew up with pride and with warmth for the Wiradjuri people. Her friends, the people she went to school with, were steeped in the Aboriginal culture of central western New South Wales. In her professional life, Marie Bashir has served the Aboriginal people of New South Wales in the fields of mental health and community health. As the Governor, she helped all of New South Wales to understand the centrality of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to our history, to our present and to our future. She also stressed the importance of reconciliation, not just to Aboriginal people but to all of us. She did so, I note, in her first Speech to this Chamber and in her last Speech to this Chamber.

Starting as a young woman from a migrant background and a small country town, her life was not about smashing barriers; it was about sweeping them aside. She did not do so with anger, although anger would have been justified by the glass ceilings that she no doubt encountered. It was done with kindness and with warmth. It was done not so much for herself, or even for those for whom she opened pathways and who would be inspired to follow her to achieve in their own fields. She did so out of a deep commitment to the people she served in each and every aspect of her professional life. Every young woman of New South Wales, every person from a non-English speaking background, every person born in rural and regional New South Wales, indeed every person in this State who aspires to serve has been shown how to do so by Marie Bashir and the example that she has set.

It is not surprising that in Marie Bashir's career there have been a number of recurring themes. I have often heard her talk about the centrality of education to the development of the individual and the community. She was a staunch supporter of her alma maters, including Sydney Girls High School. She was a staunch advocate for public education and she has, to the great pride of the State, a modern public school named after her. This is a fitting recognition for somebody who has spoken out for public education and education in general.

Marie Bashir spoke often of the marginalised and the hurt. In her last Speech to this Chamber she made the marginalised and the hurt the core of her theme. She did so without malice to the successful and the brilliant, as she termed them. She turned to a theme that brought out the best in New South Wales, the best in our society that cares and aspires. She spoke out not just for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but also for people of diverse sexuality and diverse genders. She chose to raise critical issues in her last Speech, including food security and the complexity facing this State and a nation beset by drought and bushfires.

In her time as Governor she saw out six Premiers, five Opposition leaders and countless members of Parliament. As the Leader of the Opposition said in his speech at lunchtime today, she always had a tone set above all of us, a tone that led the State to a greater and better place. She saw my party go from two representatives to six representatives, although I do not place any particular blame on Marie Bashir for that happening. It is a sign of the change that happened while she was Governor of the State. She saw the State evolve and grow in good ways and in bad. But always she was there to emphasise the good and to reflect to us, as members of Parliament and as members of our community, that in our efforts we were discovering the better of ourselves.

Always she was there to help those who were suffering and whose lives were falling apart. She would help them stitch their lives back together and become citizens. Much has been said about Marie Bashir today but nothing will come close to the reality of a Governor who made this State a greater place than it would have been without her. She is a clinician, a psychologist and an academic who improved her fields of pursuit and fixed people who came to her psychologically broken.

I conclude by saying that sometimes in public life there are individuals who are greatly inspirational. They do not think of themselves as being inspirational and they do not self-consciously seek to be leaders. Because of who they are and where they have come from, because of the lessons they have learned from their childhood, their parents, the people around them and their family and loved ones, because of their professional practices, they give us leadership and inspiration and make us greater people. Marie Bashir is one such person for whom we all feel enormous gratitude and enormous love. I wish her and Sir Nicholas the very best in the next phase of their lives and I thank them for their contribution to our lives.

**The Hon. ROBERT BROWN** [4.30 p.m.]: I hope that members note that although my speech, which I make also on behalf of the Hon. Robert Borsak, will be brief, it is made with a great deal of sincerity. On behalf of the Shooters and Fishers Party I briefly but sincerely add our congratulations and best wishes to the Governor, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, AD, CVO. As members know, and it has been mentioned previously, Her Excellency was born at Narrandera in country New South Wales. She is the second-longest serving Governor of New South Wales, having been appointed in 2001.

By any measure, she has had a remarkable and stellar career not only in medicine and academia but also in public life as the Governor of this State. It is in that role that most of us have had dealings, be they small, with Her Excellency. Her tenure as Governor has been marked by eloquence, dignity and elegance. But of even greater significance—and I believe this is the most significant comment I can make about Her Excellency and her term as Governor of New South Wales—her tenure has been marked by compassion for and understanding of the needs of the whole community.

I, along with all members of this House and in the other place, am in admiration of the public service that she has provided, the awards she has been given and the respect in which Her Excellency is held by the people of New South Wales. Earlier I mentioned to the Leader of the House that when I told a certain 13-year-old young lady, who shall remain nameless, what I was doing today, she knew who the Governor of New South Wales was. I daresay if I asked her the Prime Minister's name she would not have known because she probably does not care. Her comment about the Governor of New South Wales—and she could not quite get the name right—was "She's cool". This was said by a 13-year-old girl—it could have been a 13-year-old boy, but they are even less aware of what is going on around them.

Arthur Phillip was the first Governor of this colony and I am sure that after 226 years he would be proud of the efforts of Dame Marie Bashir as one of his successors. When referring to Her Excellency's Speech, the mover of the motion used two words which sum it up for me. The Hon. Jennifer Gardiner said that Her Excellency's Speech had the "personal touch". That says it all: the personal touch. That is what Dame Marie Bashir has always been about. We thank Her Excellency for her service to the betterment of this State and we wish her and Sir Nicholas all the best in the future, whatever that may hold.

**The Hon. MATTHEW MASON-COX** (Minister for Fair Trading) [4.34 p.m.]: It is my great honour to support the motion which expresses our thanks and offers our sincere congratulations to Her Excellency the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, Dame of the Order of Australia, Governor of the State of New South Wales and the Commonwealth of Australia. At the outset, I wish to strongly associate myself with all the comments that have been made today not only in this place but also at lunch and, indeed, with all the comments that are to follow. They are a testament to the honour and the love that we have for our Governor—the people's Governor, as the President of this place so aptly described her at lunch today.

Her Excellency is the second-longest serving Governor—13 years and seven months—behind Sir Roden Cutler, VC, who was Governor for 15 years. Sir Roden Cutler was a serviceman of great distinction. Her Excellency thought it appropriate to conclude her term as the second-longest serving Governor of this State, in honour of Sir Roden Cutler's record and contribution to public life. In my view, this captures Her Excellency's essence: humility and service above self. As other members have mentioned, Her Excellency is a remarkable woman of humble origins. She is a country girl at heart, born in Narrandera in New South Wales, not far from my hometown of Wagga Wagga, and we spoke often of that. She is from a migrant family from Lebanon and was public school educated at Sydney Girls High School. It is worth noting that Sir Roden Cutler was educated at Sydney Boys High School. Perhaps there was something in the water at Moore Park.

Throughout her time as our beloved Governor, Her Excellency has been concerned for the disadvantaged and marginalised members of our society locally, in the country and overseas. She continues to be a powerful advocate for the powerless. As we have heard, she leaves an enormous legacy, not only as the first female Governor of New South Wales and the first Governor of Lebanese descent of any Australian State but also because of the example that she sets for all members of this place and those in public office in this State. Her record is one of service, compassion, intelligence and humility.

It has been both an honour and a pleasure to serve, albeit briefly, on her Executive Council. I will miss her incisive comments and her convivial chats over a cup of coffee and toast at the conclusion of the meetings. On a recent occasion I asked Her Excellency what she would like to do when her term expired. Her response was unsurprising: she wanted to use her clinical skills and her contacts to help ex-service men and women who have been affected by post-traumatic stress. She will continue to be patron and to support more than 30 organisations in her retirement—if retirement is what one could call it. Her legacy will continue and I trust that she finds a bit of spare time to spend with Sir Nicholas.

Her Excellency also mentioned that one of her favourite governors was Governor Lachlan Macquarie, arguably one of the most pre-eminent governors of this State. I could not help but think that whilst Governor Macquarie's name is displayed across monuments and roads throughout our great State, it will be Her Excellency's name that will be written in the hearts and minds of its people. We thank you, Your Excellency, for your great example and for representing us in such a dignified and gentle manner. I remember very poignantly the day that I was sworn in as a Minister; my family was there and she treated my children and my wife with grace and charm. Personally I wish Her Excellency and Sir Nicholas all the best. I thank them for their service and I know that their legacy in this great State will continue for many years to come.

**The Hon. ADAM SEARLE** (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.39 p.m.]: Today we pay tribute to the outstanding contribution to public life of our current Governor, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir. She has too many attainments to list or to discuss in the short time I have, but previous speakers have eloquently attested them. When made a Dame of the Order of Australia earlier this year, that award was for "extraordinary and pre-eminent achievement and merit in service to the administration, public life, and people of New South Wales, to medicine, particularly as an advocate for improved mental health outcomes for the young, marginalised and disadvantaged, to international relations, through the promotion of collaborative health programs, and as a leader in tertiary education".

When we look at the many achievements connected to her before she became Governor, it is little wonder that upon her appointment then Premier Carr said she was the most qualified person we had to become

Governor. What is equally outstanding in that award is how much work of great substance has been undertaken by this remarkable woman while holding the formerly purely ceremonial position of Governor. With her appointment came a number of firsts. She is the first woman to hold this the oldest public office in Australia. She is also the first person of non-English speaking background to hold the office, and also the first person not connected with the military or the legal profession to do so.

While Her Excellency is only the second-longest serving Governor of the State, she is currently the longest serving incumbent today. Her Excellency holds the record for the most Premiers during her term of office, standing at six, which reflects the recent turbulent political history of this State. The next highest record is that of the eleventh Governor, Sir William Thomas Dennison, who had five Premiers during his term from 1855 to 1861, which shows the remarkable times through which we have lived.

Sworn in on 1 March 2001 as the first female Governor, she said she would use her role to bring ethnic groups closer together and reduce poverty in the State. As Governor she said she would work to promote a cultured and informed society where everyone has a seat at the table. That is what she has done in her more than 13 years in the role. They reflect Her Excellency's commitment to social inclusion, which has been her life's work. Indeed, I believe she has made this the badge of the office of Governor. We take this for granted today, but it is remarkable how she has undertaken the changes in the role and has done so without controversy and with great passion and dignity. In her Speech today she said in a similar vein:

A Governor must be mindful of the needs of the weak and the disadvantaged, not only of the successful and brilliant.

I cannot think of another Governor of this State for whom this would have been a prime consideration or who would have expressed it so publicly. It is also a sign of how she has changed the office of Governor, and for the better. As my leader the Hon. Luke Foley indicated in his remarks, she has refashioned the ancient role and has made it fit for purpose in a modern, representative democracy. She not only has enjoyed a durable high regard from political leaders across the spectrum and in the community but through sheer dint of hard work has made the office accessible to the community she has served. Her time as Governor is one of tireless service to the community, indefatigable travel across the State and connecting the high office to the wider community.

For example, she has been a regular visitor to my home of the Blue Mountains, particularly during the recent bushfire crisis. Perhaps it was her training and experience in psychiatry, but her interest in the variety of people she met through the role was marked by its genuine quality and its probing interest in who they are and what their life's journey has entailed. This abiding interest, taking the time to hear people's stories and showing them respect, is what I believe marks her out and has led to the highest regard in which we all hold her. We have heard how her sharp, inquiring mind would probe Ministers at the Executive Council. Nowhere was this attribute more evident than when she had to sign documents relating to forensic patients in our mental health system.

A number of former Ministers for Health have reported how she would test each point on the material before her before signing. This reflects her commitment to those less fortunate, to whom we all owe a duty of care. She will be succeeded by retired Defence Force Chief David Hurley, a much more traditional appointment. However, I believe the record of Her Excellency will not only stand the test of time but continue to demonstrate how this office can be made contemporary and advance the causes of social inclusion and social justice in our society. We thank Her Excellency, and her husband, Sir Nicholas Shehadie, for her record of service to the State as Governor, for her remarkable contribution to medicine in the field of mental health, and for assisting Indigenous persons and refugees. Her commitment both before and during her term as Governor to improving mental health outcomes for women, the young and refugees remains a beacon of inspiration for all of us.

**The Hon. HELEN WESTWOOD** [4.44 p.m.]: I am honoured to speak in this debate on the Address-in-Reply. As many speakers have noted, the office of Governor of New South Wales is the oldest continuous institution in Australia. Her Excellency, Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, AD, CVO, is the first woman appointed to the position. Dame Marie is currently the longest serving Vice-Regal representative in Australia and has served as Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia during absences of the Governor-General. As has been mentioned, she is the second-longest serving Governor of New South Wales.

All members would appreciate that the Governor plays a significant role in reaching out to all sectors of the New South Wales community, promoting social cohesion, advocating the interests of those who are marginalised and educating citizens on the system of government in New South Wales and the important role



that she plays as Governor. It is true to say that she has set a high standard for all who will follow her. As other members have noted, she has defined the role of Governor for the modern day; she reflects the significance of that role in the twenty-first century.

As the Governor noted in her Speech today, in fulfilling the role she has travelled widely to every corner of the State, she has participated in many events and undertaken many speaking engagements. She serves as patron to more than 360 community organisations and, as we have heard, she has attended more than 5,000 community events. I recall some of those community events with great fondness. Like many citizens of New South Wales, my dearest memories of Her Excellency are of her visits to my local community and my personal interactions with her during those visits. The most special memory for me is the occasion on which Her Excellency appointed me as a Member of the Order of Australia. Such an honour was both humbling and treasured, and it was all the more special for me to have been appointed by the first woman Governor of New South Wales. As has been said, the Governor has become known as the people's Governor.

Her Excellency's visits to the community of Bankstown during my years of service on the council, and particularly during the years I served as mayor, were much anticipated and highly valued. I recall a couple of occasions when Her Excellency met with local community members and particularly young people in our community. She visited Condell Park High School at a time when only 30 per cent of the students were girls and 70 per cent of the students were male. That often presented great barriers and difficulties for young women. When the Governor attended the school I think she heard Casey Donovan in one of her earliest public engagements. Following official proceedings the Governor met with students and encouraged the female students to continue their education. That was particularly relevant for many students who were from non-English speaking backgrounds and young women of Arabic-speaking background.

I also recall an event of Arabic-speaking communities in our local area at which Her Excellency encouraged parents of young men in the Bankstown community to parent them well but not indulge them too much and to encourage their daughters to participate in education and pursue professional careers. Again, I know the Governor was seen as a great role model for young people of Arabic-speaking background and the young women and men of Lebanese heritage in particular. Another event I recall with great fondness was the opening of the Sydney Gay Games in 2002 where, believe it or not, she was even more popular than Justice Michael Kirby and the singer k. d. lang. She was met with such warmth and enthusiasm. Her support for the GLBTI community and all the marginalised and disadvantaged communities is much appreciated. I thank her for her service to New South Wales.

**The Hon. RICK COLLESS** [4.49 p.m.]: I offer my congratulations to Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir on her term as Governor and also on her pending retirement. It is absolutely wonderful that the daughter of an immigrant family from Narrandera in south-western New South Wales can rise through the ranks to the highest and oldest office in New South Wales. Her father was a medical graduate from the American University of Beirut, while her mother's side of the family arrived in Australia during the nineteenth century. She attended Narrandera Public School and in 1943 was enrolled at Sydney Girls High School where previously her mother also attended school.

Before studying medicine at the University of Sydney she studied at the Conservatorium of Music where she became proficient in playing the violin. Her leadership qualities were obvious at an early age when she resided at the Women's College at Sydney University. She became secretary in 1960 and chaired the college from 1982 until 1990. While she was a student at the university she met Nicholas Shehadie and they were married in 1957, with children Michael, Susan and Alexandra born over the next few years. Her medical achievements are well documented and need not be explored further today.

On 1 March 2001 Professor Bashir was sworn in as the thirty-seventh Governor of New South Wales, the first woman governor and the first governor of New South Wales of Lebanese background. In that role she has become, as has been alluded to earlier today, the people's Governor. Wherever she travelled in New South Wales—and that was widely to many small communities, as has been described by other members today—she connected with the people: Ordinary people, the people in the streets, the unemployed, the Aboriginal people all adored her.

In today's *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist Jacqueline Maley wrote that recently when she was at the airport she heard a loud speaker announcement that the flight to Dubbo was about to leave and a number of passengers were yet to board, including Marie Bashir. Only in Australia could a vice-regal appointee be advised

over a public address system that her commercial flight was about to leave. Her Excellency travelled on commercial aircraft wherever possible. In smaller communities with no access to commercial air services she travelled with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

On arriving in Dubbo Her Excellency was received by the mayor and opened the Sixteenth Triennial Conference South Pacific Area of the Associated Country Women of the World, hosted by the Country Women's Association of New South Wales. That is the sort of person that Professor Marie Bashir is. Wherever she goes she is highly regarded by the communities and loved by everybody. Wherever one travels in New South Wales as soon as her name is mentioned people say, "She is such a wonderful person." I congratulate the Hon. Jennifer Gardiner on moving this motion. I know that all members of this House congratulate Her Excellency on a truly remarkable 13½ years as Governor of New South Wales, and wish her and Sir Nicholas a long, happy, fruitful and well-earned retirement, if they do, in fact, retire.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD** [4.53 p.m.]: I formally honour Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, AD, CVO, and congratulate her on the completion of her term as the thirty-seventh Governor of our State. Professor Bashir has both enjoyed and richly deserved the genuine affection that the New South Wales community has held for her more than 13 years in office. And, of course, that term makes Professor Bashir our second-longest serving Governor. Before her appointment, Professor Bashir was already well respected for her work in adolescent mental health issues, suicide prevention, Aboriginal equality and refugee causes. She is one of those people gifted with great ability and acumen which they then generously deploy to others.

Professor Bashir's professional career is characterised by her commitment to step up and stand up for those less able to do so themselves. She has been a true public servant. It is no wonder that she eventually obtained our State's highest office of service. Immediately after her appointment she said she wanted to achieve a more harmonious and more inclusive society in New South Wales. Professor Bashir was acutely aware of the significance of the position of Governor as the oldest continuous governance institution in Australia.

I reflect briefly on the afternoon in early 2001 when then Premier Bob Carr walked into my office and told the communications team that he was going to appoint Professor Bashir as the State's next Governor. Mr Carr had just received formal approval from Buckingham Palace via the Cabinet Office that his recommendation had been endorsed by the Queen. We were requested that afternoon to drive over to her home and brief her on what to expect when the media descended upon her. My colleague Amanda Lampe and I arrived and were welcomed with such affection and warmth.

Professor Bashir told us about her family and growing up in Narrandera in the Riverina as the daughter of Lebanese-born parents, her years studying medicine at the University of Sydney, marrying a young rising Wallaby player and her interest in juvenile justice and Indigenous health. We knew within seconds that Mr Carr had made the right decision. We knew that Professor Bashir would be a wonderful Governor and that she needed no assistance from us. She and her husband, Sir Nicholas Shehadie, were well aware of the responsibilities and duties of public service and well adept at communicating warmly with all the communities of New South Wales. They were themselves a very kind and warm couple. When Professor Bashir spoke about her interests, Sir Nicholas beamed with affection and pride at his wife's achievements.

After returning from visiting the couple, a senior Carr Cabinet Minister—who I noticed was here today—remarked that Sir Nicholas himself would also have made a wonderful governor. I agree with that observation. I guess some households are particularly flush with talent. Mr Carr, like me, believed that Australia should be a republic, but he was very proud of the appointment. Furthermore, the Premier was well aware that he was making history. Previously, he had appointed the State's first Jewish governor, her predecessor, Gordon Samuels. Now he had appointed the State's first female governor and the third woman to ever serve as governor of an Australian State. Dr Bashir was also the first governor of Lebanese descent. But at the time, Mr Carr made it clear that he was not appointing a woman, he was selecting the "most qualified" to hold the position. On 1 March 2001 he said:

In terms of direct experience, knowledge and understanding over a range of issues and problems, there has never been a more highly qualified Governor of NSW.

Time and the exemplary performance of Professor Bashir have proven him right, so much so that I believe that Professor Bashir's tenure has enhanced the office of Governor. Most people would approach an appointment such as this simply hoping to do justice to the gravitas of the office; few would dream that they would actually add status to the office. That is precisely the achievement of our current Governor. While officeholders come

and go, the office itself is perpetual. On that note, I welcome the announcement that General David Hurley, who served as Chief of the Defence Force, will succeed Professor Bashir. Born in Wollongong, General Hurley adds to a considerable legacy of military expertise in our governors.

I also make a brief mention and pay tribute to Brian Davies who has served as Official Secretary and Chief of Staff to Her Excellency the Governor since 24 November 2012. He has served both Governor Samuels and Governor Bashir. As the chief adviser he is responsible for the provision of advice and support in relation to the Governor's constitutional, ceremonial and communal roles. Mr Davies is acutely aware of his and the Governor's constitutional responsibility to the State and to the community. In conclusion, I once again congratulate Professor Bashir and I look forward to General Hurley's tenure and wish him all the very best. I thank the House for its consideration and commend the motion.

**The Hon. GREG PEARCE** [4.58 p.m.]: I join with members in congratulating the Governor on her term in office but also thank her for her dedication and hard work for the people of the New South Wales. I also thank Sir Nicholas Shehadie because in that couple the New South Wales people received a bonus that is seldom available. During the Governor's Speech I was reminded that the Legislative Council first met in August 1824. One has to be quite wondrous that New South Wales, as part of Australia, which is considered to be a very young country, has such a long and rich history in terms of our democracy, conventions and the other things that enable us to continue to be a civilised society.

I was reminded that Her Excellency was the thirty-seventh Governor but the first woman Governor, and she has served for 13½ years. She has outlasted six Premiers and she certainly outlasted me as a Minister but I was privileged to be a Minister for about 2½ years, to sit with her in Executive Council meetings and to observe her work. She embodies everything we value as Australians, her background being from essentially outback Australia, her commitment to Indigenous people, communities, mateship, people with disability, drug and alcohol problems, and health and mental health. She is the embodiment of what it is to be an Australian.

She said it was a great privilege to be Governor and it was a great privilege for me to be part of a government that was able to work with her. Indeed, I commend former Premier Carr for his selection of a person who was the best choice for that position. I refer not only to her work in leadership of governance in this State, in welcoming and building our relationships with other States and countries but also her broad role in the community, such as being Chancellor of the University of Sydney, a wonderful institution with great history and stability that is an important part of our democracy and helps to make Australia and New South Wales such a great place.

It is in that context that we came to government with a strong agenda to restore the New South Wales economy and budget. That is why we worked so hard to bring expenses back into line. We introduced the wages policy for the public sector. I worked very hard on our infrastructure policy because we wanted to renew infrastructure. I introduced a policy to recycle some of our assets, including property assets, and I worked very hard to build an environment where business was able to build on the advantages, stability and democracy of New South Wales. I introduced reforms such as the occupational health and safety reforms and the workers compensation reforms that were part of rebuilding this great democracy after 16 years in which things had slipped.

The Governor, amongst many other great qualities, was always concerned about the most disadvantaged in the community. One of the things I was most proud to do as Minister was to work on reducing pressures on the cost of living. As the Minister responsible for Sydney Water and Hunter Water I was very proud to be able to reduce the rate of increase of the rates being charged by those organisations. I was able to work very hard on improving the focus on government services through things like the ICT Strategy that I introduced and the Procurement Strategy. With the example of someone who is as outgoing and giving as the Governor, one is privileged to be part of a Government and Parliament in this State and to be able to deliver for the people of New South Wales. Again I thank the Governor and I thank Sir Nicholas Shehadie.

**The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE** [5.03 p.m.]: I also wish to be associated with this motion and I am pleased to speak about the remarkable contribution of Governor Dame Marie Bashir, a wonderful Australian with whom I share the same heritage. Bashir translated from Arabic means "the one who brings good news", a remarkably befitting name. She has brought a lot of good news for many people around Australia. Indigenous Australians, migrant Australians, Australians suffering mental health issues and Australians from a multicultural background truly love her for who she is. Governor Bashir is an incredible example of the strengths of multicultural Australia and the opportunities that Australia provides to those who become part of our nation.

As other speakers have already noted, Governor Bashir was proudly New South Wales' first female Governor and the first governor from any State in Australia to be of Lebanese descent. These are admirable achievements but to me just as impressive is Governor Bashir's commitment to her community before she became our thirty-seventh Governor. Governor Bashir trained as a doctor and later on continued her studies with postgraduate studies in psychiatry. Rather than follow this path into private practice, in 1987 she accepted an appointment as Director of Community Health Services in the Central Sydney Area Health Service. During this time the health service focused on childhood services, migrant and Indigenous health and services for the elderly. In her role she made a great difference to the lives of many and in 1988 she was recognised for this work and made an Officer of the Order of Australia.

Governor Bashir's contributions to the field of health, particularly mental health, have been significant, both for patients and for the way we deal with mental health in New South Wales. In 1994 Governor Bashir was appointed Clinical Director of Mental Health Services for the Central Sydney area at a time of great reform in mental health. At this time she was also a clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of Sydney and worked with teaching programs in Vietnam and Thailand. She has also contributed significantly to mental health services for Indigenous Australia, establishing the Aboriginal mental health units in partnership with the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern. She has also done extensive work with young people, especially those caught up in our juvenile justice system, chairing the New South Wales Juvenile Justice Advisory Council from 1991 to 1999.

These are just some of the remarkable contributions of Governor Bashir but from them we see an extraordinary woman, committed to the health and wellbeing of our community and a woman who has made a positive difference to the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of people across New South Wales. I thank Governor Bashir for her 13½ years of service to New South Wales. I thank her for her time as Governor and for her other roles in our community. She is a brilliant human being, an inspirational Australian, and I wish her and Sir Nicholas all the best for their future.

**The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY** (Parliamentary Secretary) [5.07 p.m.]: I, too, support the motion moved by the Hon. Jennifer Gardiner in commendation of Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Bashir, AD, CVO, Governor of New South Wales. I have listened to so many magnificent speeches here today. I also highlight and thank Mr President for what has been a magnificent day in the New South Wales Parliament, a day of kindness and generosity, reflecting on our wonderful democracy, which has been so beautifully spearheaded by the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir for the past 13½ years. There is just one question in my mind that I cannot quite find an answer to: How does a woman who was born in 1930 in the town of Narrandera—it was not quite the outback but it was not far from it—rise to such giddy heights and be adored by all who have met her?

I think it comes down to one thing. She is an Australian; she was born here of Lebanese parents and like so many Lebanese immigrants that I have met, known and loved; they come with a sense of purpose, hard work and ethic. The thing that the Honourable Marie Bashir has strived for throughout her life and for the people she has touched has been education. Her father was a doctor who was trained in the United States. Her mother was also of Sydney university. She reminds me of Jill Ker Conway in *The Road to Coorain*, one of my favourite books, which reflected growing up in the outback of New South Wales at that time.

These women were born into families that did not place a barrier in their way. She took every opportunity that came to her to get the best possible education. That education was cherished and supported and she drove her life in that manner. I respect that more than anything. The word the Hon. Jennifer Gardiner used to describe Dame Marie was "indefatigable" and it describes her perfectly. As the Hon. Luke Foley stated, Marie Bashir "contemporised" her role through direct and genuine contact with people. It was not media contact, a twitter feed or Facebook; it was genuine contact. She absolutely loved the people she dealt with.

I heard the story of the young girl from Coomealla during a Royal Flying Doctor presentation at Government House. That young girl is now about to graduate as a teacher, which shows the profound impact Dame Marie has on people. I highlight the work Her Excellency did at the Rivendell Child, Adolescent and Family Unit before her time with the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern. It was pioneering, world-leading work in adolescent mental health. From conversations I have had with two good friends of mine, John Morton and Leah Ray, who worked with Dame Marie Bashir from the mid-1970s through to the early 1980s, that facility did amazing work for young people.

Marie Bashir understands that adolescent mental health is still a challenge today. I note that she is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. One of the big challenges we face in

rural and regional New South Wales is providing psychiatric services. It is difficult to find psychiatrists who are willing to work in our public health system, or the private system, and live in regional New South Wales. I reflect on that today, having recently had contact with a girlfriend whose daughter is suffering from anorexia. It is almost impossible to get a psychiatric appointment in many regional communities.

One of the organisations that Marie Bashir has been involved with is Royal Far West and it is now providing psychiatric services via Telehealth. It is having a wonderful impact, particularly around the Liverpool Plains where they have trial programs in progress. I had the privilege of speaking with Her Excellency this afternoon and she had the most beautiful twinkle in her eye, even after the long events today, as we spoke about the Royal Flying Doctor Service. She said, "You know, Melinda, that is a world-leading organisation." She is so proud of that organisation and many other regional charities and groups that are doing great work. I conclude with Her Excellency's words: "I will still be the same girl tomorrow and next year and I will never cease to be grateful for working in the field that I have done, particularly in medicine and teaching students and doctors." She has taught us all so much and I thank her and Sir Nicholas and wish them both very well. I do not expect her to retire; her work will continue in a practical, real and fruitful way.

**The Hon. SOPHIE COTSIS** [5.12 p.m.]: It is with great honour that I farewell Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, AD, CVO, as she prepares to retire from public office. From her early life as a junior resident medical officer at St Vincent's Hospital to serving as our thirty-seventh Governor of New South Wales Her Excellency has demonstrated unparalleled compassion and an incredible commitment to the community. Her Excellency began her journey at Narrandera Public School in southern New South Wales before being selected for enrolment at Sydney Girls High School in 1943.

Upon graduating she studied violin at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and then completed both a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Sydney medical school. It was during her time at the University of Sydney that she attended the women's college and in 1960 became the college's honorary secretary. She has left an enduring impression on each one of those institutions, inspiring other young women to always strive for excellence. She continues to tirelessly give back to the community, taking time out from her busy schedule to attend little things such as awards nights at her alma mater and always supporting the work of current students.

Throughout her life Her Excellency's work has consistently centred on assisting other people, in particular, advocating for the marginalised and disadvantaged. For a brief period Her Excellency worked in a women's health clinic before moving to the outskirts of Western Sydney to work in general practice. She then began working with women in Redfern, which exposed her to the silence in which many women suffer. Her Excellency has never ceased to take an opportunity to continue learning. After being dissatisfied with the standard psychiatric treatment of depression she undertook further postgraduate studies in psychiatry and as a result established a new unit for the treatment of young people with mental health problems. She then extended her innovative approaches to new groups that were not being adequately reached.

Her Excellency has worked for the betterment of Indigenous Australians, refugee communities and disadvantaged children, among many others. As a result of her compassion Her Excellency has been the recipient of a range of commendations such as Mother of the Year in 1971 to the Mental Health Princess Award in recognition of her contribution to collaborative mental health programs between Australia and Thailand. Her Excellency is also a former chancellor of the University of Sydney, former senior consultant for the Aboriginal Medical Service and deservingly the patron of more than 370 organisations.

In 2001 Her Excellency Dame Marie Bashir became the first female Governor of New South Wales, an achievement that I and many other women in this Chamber and across New South Wales are incredibly inspired by. Her warmth, compassion and grace were again exemplified in June this year when she was named Dame of the Order of Australia. As the Hon. Melinda Pavey previously mentioned she insisted that despite our nation's highest civic award she would still be the same girl tomorrow. Her Excellency is a wonderfully genuine public figure and it is with great sadness that we note she leaves us today and retires from her official capacity for this Parliament.

I note the comment by the Hon. Melinda Pavey that somebody who grew up in Narrandera achieved one of the highest offices in New South Wales and what a marvellous achievement it is. It is possible in Australia for young children from disadvantaged or non-English speaking backgrounds—that is my background—to achieve success. It is humbling and inspiring to see a woman from a non-English speaking background achieve one of the highest offices in this State. New South Wales is a wonderful State, Australia is a beautiful country, and I congratulate Her Excellency and wish her and her family the very best.

**The Hon. MARIE FICARRA** (Parliamentary Secretary) [5.17 p.m.]: Today we heard for the last time in this place from one of this State's most extraordinary and loved Governors, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Roslyn Bashir, AD, CVO. As we have heard from previous speakers, in 2001 Her Excellency became the first woman in the history of this State to be appointed Governor. She has performed her duties with grace and distinction for over 13 years and has become an inspiration to people of all ages, but particularly girls and women. Serving in a senior role in our society, she has conducted herself with great charm, humility and professionalism.

We acknowledge proudly that Her Excellency has dedicated her life to serving people in our community from all walks of life and all backgrounds without hesitation. Following her graduation as a medical doctor Her Excellency was appointed as a resident medical officer at St Vincent's Hospital and then to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children. I recall her speeches at many charitable events. She spoke of sitting at the bedside of her tragically ill young patients giving support and praying for their return to health whilst many other male medical colleagues would tell her to rest. Her empathy for children and young people meant that she would stay by their side until the end giving comfort and support to them and their families.

Her Excellency's compassion, kindness and empathy for everyday people are the reason she is so deeply loved by the people of New South Wales. In 1972 Her Excellency was appointed Director of the Rivendell Child, Adolescent and Family Unit, which has provided counselling services for young people with emotional and psychiatric issues. Throughout her life Professor Bashir has shown how determined she is to serve the needs and interests of children and young people. In 1987 Her Excellency was appointed director of the Community Health Services in the Central Sydney Area Health Service, which put emphasis on early childhood services, migrant and Indigenous health and the elderly.

In 1995, in a partnership with the Aboriginal Medical Service at Redfern, Her Excellency established the Aboriginal Mental Health Unit, which has provided regular clinics and counselling, always championing the health and welfare of Indigenous Australians and reflecting her sincere respect for Indigenous culture, history, traditions and languages. Her Excellency has had a record of achievement and service in academia, not only as a professor of medicine but also as Chancellor of the University of Sydney from 2007 until 2012. Professor Bashir's service as patron of the arts and patron of many organisations and community groups covering the welfare of our armed service personnel, people with disabilities, the homeless, refugee welfare and those suffering impaired mental health is to be admired.

Throughout her long life in public office, by Her Excellency's side has been an absolute gentleman and model citizen, Sir Nicholas Shehadie, AC, OBE. Like Her Excellency, he has endeared himself to all who have had the pleasure of meeting him. He once told me that as the humble partner of "the Administrator" he followed all her directions. One cannot help but smile when seeing Her Excellency and Sir Nicholas together. The love, respect, dedication and support they have for each other is inspiring to all who are in their presence.

We are always moved upon hearing of the many acts of kindness directed to complete strangers by Her Excellency and Sir Nicholas. They demonstrate genuine love, care and concern for those around them; they never turn a blind eye. Her Excellency was named Australian Mother of the Year in 1971. Narrandera's daughter of Lebanese migrant parents has three children and six grandchildren who are dedicated to her and Sir Nicholas. As parents who were themselves high achievers and heavily involved in community life they always made time for their family in their typical loving and selfless way.

The people of New South Wales will forever be grateful for the work of Her Excellency and Sir Nicholas, the joy they have given to so many communities not only in metropolitan regions but also in rural, remote regions through their attendance at thousands of events over many years. Like all honourable members, I thank Her Excellency and Sir Nicholas for their outstanding service to this State and wish these two extraordinary people the best of health, happiness and love for their future life together. We pray to the Lord, long may that be.

**The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK** [5.22 p.m.]: I am humbled and honoured to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr Marie Bashir, whose intellect, character, leadership and charisma sets her apart not only as the outstanding Governor of New South Wales but also as our most respected and loved living Australian. She is a woman whose values, service and empathy for her fellow Australians create an example and a standard that is beyond the rest of us, but is nevertheless a shining light we can at least aspire to follow.

I met Dr Bashir in the 1980s as a young staffer for Virginia Chadwick, another extraordinary Australian. Dr Bashir was renowned in her field of psychiatry but not yet appreciated in public life. Virginia

however fully understood her brilliance and humanity and asked her to undertake a review of the most difficult and controversial sphere of public policy in this State—that is, juvenile justice. By the time the review was completed Virginia had been moved to the Education portfolio. However, the green paper written by Dr Bashir was the most enlightened and important contribution to this vexed issue. I still have two copies of it at home. More than two decades later, I have seen nothing to contradict her observations and recommendations and continue to believe her entire report should be implemented in the best interests of young people and our community. No finer contribution has ever been made. That is just one detail in a long career that overflows with such contributions

Dr Bashir has had a lengthy tenure that spanned all sorts of social challenges and disappointments, particularly in the public life of this State. The Independent Commission Against Corruption continues its work, which I know demoralises many of us inside and outside the political world, as we grapple to understand the toxic environment that produces such poor behaviours. Throughout the worst of it, Governor Bashir has been a rock. She has performed her duty of swearing in and being photographed with Premier after Premier, Minister after Minister, Cabinet after Cabinet in the wake of one scandal and debacle after another. She has been dignified, upholding every standard and value of her office as the New South Wales Parliament has repeatedly tried, failed and tried again to deliver respectable and enduring government that is both craved and deserved by the people of New South Wales.

For the people there has been an enduring figure, a reliable icon who has never let them down—and that has been Dr Marie Bashir. She is so high above us, but the key to her astonishing popularity is that she is so much amongst us. For all our experience, we still crave goodness and leadership and Dr Bashir has proven this is no forlorn hope; it is possible, it exists and it is surely cherished by all who have encountered her grace. She is proof Australians are still capable of truly loving and respecting a rare and accomplished figure in public life.

Marie Bashir has attended more than 12,000 functions as Governor, and she has been a revered guest at each. I make particular mention of the wisdom, compassion and wit with which she has spoken at each of these events. I cannot conceive of how she does it, but the content and empathy of her speeches has been amazing. I have learnt something new and important every time I have heard her speak. She drops in little comments, sharing an astounding knowledge of our State's Aboriginal and European heritage and some new little fact that augments a marvellous new insight about ourselves and each other. Dr Bashir is an extraordinary communicator.

Her Excellency unites us in so many ways. She understands each of us—from the homeless man, Sherlock, referred to by the Premier, to the year 8 Aboriginal girl living in a remote community near the South Australian border whose story was shared by the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt this afternoon. She seems to understand, care and want the best for each of us and her very presence inspires us to self-belief and being more than we have been, better than we are, in some way useful to our fellow citizens, to live meaningful lives, to care for each other. These are the finest aspirations and they slumber—some would say they are almost comatose—in Australian public life. And then Marie Bashir enters the room and the best things about humanity are awakened and encouraged to grow.

Dr Bashir inspires me personally because she is a woman, because her compassion is viewed as strength and not weakness, and because she empowers me to stick with my core beliefs and continue my struggles to do the right thing and not to succumb to cynicism. It is a deeply personal emotion she stirs in each of us, it is unique to her persona and we shall not know her like again. I regret her retirement, but reflect on how lucky each of us are to have encountered her presence and personality. She is the greatest of teachers who has changed all whose good fortune it has been to meet her. Our greatest tribute to Governor Bashir is not in our speeches today, but rather to continue to strive according to her example for the enrichment and betterment of those less fortunate than ourselves.

**The Hon. ERNEST WONG** [5.27 p.m.]: I join all my colleagues in saluting the exceptional public service of our State's thirty-seventh Governor, Her Excellency Dame Marie Bashir. I know that I can say "all my colleagues" with confidence because the respect and admiration for our departing Governor is clearly universal. I struggle to think of an Australian leadership figure who has crossed over political, ideological and community lines with such ease and grace as Dame Marie Bashir. Perhaps Sir William Deane is another recent example. Both are truly unifying figures in the Australian community and both are from richly intelligent backgrounds. While Sir William came to governance through the law, Dame Marie came to governance through medicine.



A highly successful and, given the times, pioneering psychiatrist, Professor Marie Bashir rapidly broadened her career to include significant academic and health reform challenges. As one looks across her very impressive curriculum vitae, one gets the clear picture of a person of such intellect and generosity that they are always looking to stretch their gifts further and further, but not in the pursuit of greater wealth or status, rather in a desire to direct their skills to the benefit of others. Rather than pursue a career of relative ease and comfort through private practice, Dr Bashir immersed herself in assisting our Indigenous Australians or children traumatised by refugee experiences. She used her prestige as a senior academic to establish improvements in teaching and practice standards in Thailand and Vietnam, indirectly assisting countless people in those countries to better mental health services.

It is as if, while never being a politician herself, she was someone who had the drive to pursue a better way, which drives so many to enter politics. Her career combined serious intellect, community concern and a constant desire to innovate, to question, to improve. It was a career that served her well in preparation for her role as the Governor of Australia's first State. Her Excellency's appointment to this role was a significant symbol in the evolution of New South Wales as a diverse and sophisticated democracy. At the time much was made of the fact that Professor Bashir was our first woman Governor, but there were other firsts too. She was the first Governor from a Middle Eastern background and the first Governor in many generations to come from a background in neither law, politics nor the military.

Governor Bashir represented a new chapter in the governorship of New South Wales and she wrote it with extraordinary commitment and dedication. In many ways she represented the modern diversity of New South Wales and she brought that to bear constantly in her work. She spoke often and passionately of the vitality that diversity brings to our State economically, socially and culturally, and of the importance of constantly defending that diversity. She backed this up with actions through her hundreds of patronages which supported community concerns from every social and cultural area of our amazing community.

At the same time she upheld, diligently, the traditions and heritage of the governorship remaining dignified, reserved and above politics at all times. Part of this was that she deliberately shied away from the media and the spotlight. In this age of media and image this makes her popularity and affection in our communities even more of a testament to her dedicated service, because when people speak of their admiration for Marie Bashir it is not for what they saw on television but for what they saw at their town hall, church or school opening; it was for the thousands of days and nights in which our Governor tirelessly travelled to, talked with and inspired communities all over our State.

She has been in many ways a reminder to us all of what grassroots leadership really means. She has been an inspirational leader of our State and, I am sure, will continue to play a significant role in its future. Such appears to be the drive and generosity of Her Excellency, and we thank her sincerely for her great contribution to New South Wales.

**The Hon. DAVID CLARKE** (Parliamentary Secretary) [5.32 p.m.]: It is a great honour, joy and privilege to speak briefly in this Address-in-Reply debate to the Governor's Speech. It is an honour to do so because it gives me, as it does others, the opportunity to pay tribute to the Governor of our State, Her Excellency the Honourable Professor Dame Marie Bashir, AD, CVO, as the end of her illustrious term as Governor approaches. Over the last 13 years, either as a member of this Parliament or as an ordinary citizen of our State, I have been fortunate to be present on many occasions where Her Excellency has been in attendance, including at formal occasions in this Parliament, at formal occasions at Government House and at numerous formal and informal occasions in a wide diversity of venues and circumstances. I have been present when Her Excellency has met, mingled and conversed with numerous and diverse groups and individuals from every ethnic, cultural and religious background that you could think of, from young children to the most senior in years of our citizens.

Today I give personal testimony that never—not even on a single occasion—did I find her to be anything other than gracious, kind and radiating warmth. Never did I observe her to be anything other than totally engaged with those she was with at the time. She made people feel at ease. She showed interest in those with whom she came in contact because she was genuinely and truly interested in them and what they had to say. I recall, as many here today would recall, how year in and year out she led through the streets of our great city the annual Anzac Day march. In the rain, wind or heat she was always there to lead our armed forces personnel, our veterans and our ex-service men and women in this event, which goes to the very heart and soul of our nation. I believe those Anzac march participants would have been uplifted and would have taken pride in having Her Excellency lead them with the dignity that she always displayed, a genuine dignity.



During her period of service as Governor, the second-longest of any of our Governors, never did she put a foot wrong. Never did she utter an embarrassing word. Never did she bring a hint of negativity to the office that she held. Today I join with others in this Parliament in thanking Her Excellency Marie Bashir for her faultless service to our State and to its citizens. Today I honour and exalt her for the special lustre that she has brought to the office of Governor of the State of New South Wales. May she and her beloved husband, Sir Nicholas Shehadie, have long life and happiness together after a job well done by them both. We all know that Her Excellency will never really be fully retired because it is the spirit of service that has always guided her in her life and in the years ahead it always will be.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE** [5.35 p.m.]: I speak in the Address-in-Reply for our Governor, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir. Today has been a very formal occasion, one that some of us, including me, sometimes find a little disconcerting. But today has been a wholly appropriate occasion to farewell a much-loved Governor for whom formality was part of the role but never a barrier to the way she was able to connect with the people who form part of our complex and diverse State.

Like every person who has met Her Excellency, I have a story to tell. I will touch briefly on my first meeting with the Governor, and it was before she became the Governor. I met Professor Marie Bashir at the 1999 New South Wales Drug Summit. Professor Bashir was there as an associate delegate of the summit and as a member of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. Professor Bashir, as she was then, was invited to attend to lend her experience, expertise, intellect and concern about how best the New South Wales Government could support young people. I was privileged to observe and support the working group and to see up close how Professor Bashir was able to steer deliberations towards solutions that put young people at the centre of their own lives.

My tribute is also on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex [LGBTI] community in New South Wales for the contribution the Governor has made. Earlier this year I was pleased, as a member of the cross-party working group for marriage equality, to host a function organised by former Senator Chris Puplick and others to celebrate and recognise the contribution that Governor Bashir has made to the inclusion and support of the LGBTI community in New South Wales. At that function actor, author and composer Phil Scott performed a wonderful tribute to her Excellency:

"What does the Governor actually do?" The truthful answer is: he or she performs all the ceremonial tasks that our elected leaders are too busy or congenitally unsuited to do. What Marie Bashir did was to bring her shining humanity to the office, and particularly as a strong, genuine supporter and advocate for the LGBTI community. She was on our side to an extent that very few in public office are. Her retirement is a great loss to us and to many others.

Part of Phil's tribute went like this:

Best wishes to General Hurley,  
Our New South Wales Governor to be.  
He will have to get up pretty early  
To equal her Excellency.

It was much longer and much funnier than I will share with members today. At the time of the function the Gay News Network said in tribute to Governor Bashir:

When her Excellency Marie Bashir steps down from her role as Governor of New South Wales, the LGBTI community will lose one of its greatest champions.

Governor Bashir has supported a raft of community causes from becoming patron of the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service upon her inauguration in 2001—the first Governor to do so—to her backing of LGBTI equality in sport.

She strongly supported the successful bid for the Sydney Convicts gay rugby team to host the 2014 Bingham Cup and hosted a reception at Government House—

**The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps:** Champions.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Yes, they did win, which was great. The quote continues:

in early April to commemorate the signing of the landmark anti-homophobia in Australian sport framework.

The New South Wales Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby co-convener Justin Koonin said:

Governor Bashir will be remembered as one of the strongest allies of the LGBTI community.

Few people in an office as high as the Governor have been as outspoken on the need to celebrate diversity, and the contribution that LGBTI people in particular make to society.

Another story told about our Governor is her ongoing support for a range of organisations. Her Speech was recalled by Carole Ann King, the founder of the Luncheon Club, a support organisation for HIV-positive people. Ms King said:

In her Speech the Governor said, 'I feel so full of emotion to look around and see so many family and friends. This is one of my favourite places in Sydney because it is about resilience, courage, helping one another and getting on with life. The atmosphere ought to be bottled and sold.'

The true story of Her Excellency Governor Marie Bashir is that she made every group she visited, every group she met, every individual she encountered feel like what they were doing was important and the contribution they made mattered. She was genuinely delighted to be there with them. I thank the Governor for all of her work.

**The Hon. TREVOR KHAN** [5.39 p.m.]: I will speak briefly, but I wish to acknowledge the steps taken by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir in her work for the marginalised and dispossessed in our community. It goes without saying that Her Excellency has had a long and distinguished track record in supporting the Aboriginal community and troubled adolescents, but I wish to focus on another group she has supported and inspired. As the Hon. Penny Sharpe mentioned, on the very day of her inauguration Her Excellency became Patron of the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service, a body established to address mental health and social issues that impact upon the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex community. A few years later, when opening the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival in 2005, Her Excellency spoke of the changing attitudes in our society and the increasing tolerance that she perceived in our community. She said:

Most Australians are increasingly taking pride in that, because of the great diversity in our country, whether it's race, religion or sexual preference, and what we need is more and more acceptance of one another.

She went on to say:

We must never take these things for granted because most of you would agree that across the world today an extraordinary winding back to many previously discarded attitudes is taking place, not only affecting gay and lesbian groups, but women's health and many aspects of social justice.

It is her bravery, dedication and commitment but, most importantly, her humanity and compassion that Her Excellency has demonstrated time and again that have helped to foster the winds of tolerance and inclusiveness in our community. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Her Excellency and wish her and Sir Nicholas a long, happy and productive next stage of their lives.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN** [5.41 p.m.]: It gives me great pleasure to join all members in this place in congratulating Governor Bashir on her term in office and in thanking her for her wonderful work for the people of New South Wales. Many members have spoken about her incredibly impressive record, her curriculum vitae and her education, but I do not think anybody has mentioned that she went to school for a brief time in Braidwood, of which that town is very proud. I wish to make a couple of personal reflections on the contact I have had with the Governor over the years I have been in this place, and they have the same theme as the reflections made by other members: her amazing ability to inspire people and, despite being the Governor and the holder of a very high office, her ability to relate to people on a one-to-one basis.

I saw a firsthand example of the inspiration Her Excellency gives to young women in particular when I was sworn in as a Minister in the former Government. My daughter, who was 16 at the time, came along to the swearing in and afterwards she got a bit bored with people chatting outside over sandwiches and she went off to have a look around Government House. The Governor obviously spotted her and ended up showing my daughter around the building. I thought that was a lovely thing to do for my daughter.

More recently my daughter came with me to the opera and Governor Bashir was there. I took my daughter to reintroduce her to the Governor and immediately the Governor focused her attention solely on my daughter to tell her all about the opera and also about the next opera coming up, which she advised her to go and see. As a result, my daughter Maddie was quite excited to go and see the next opera. I thought it was lovely that despite all the people around wanting to talk to the Governor, Her Excellency focused directly on my daughter and engaged with her. That is an example of the way Her Excellency relates to young women and inspires them and demonstrates how she focuses on young people.

The Governor has made a couple of outstanding visits to the Monaro area during her term. I remember one visit when she came down to a site known as Allan's Peg on the Bonang Highway, south of Delegate, to

officially recognise the Black-Allan line, which is the border between New South Wales and Victoria and runs to the coast. It was an interesting ceremony. She was in a reasonably remote location and it was of great excitement to the Delegate community and the region. Another time the Governor visited Adaminaby to open the memorial hall's stage curtain—it was a labour of love for that community. It is a spectacular piece of artwork in the community and the Governor came along to open it.

Many members have spoken of how she touched the lives of people. There is a twitterer from Queanbeyan called Bundeestick who tweets fairly regularly. He describes himself as "Got brain damage. And I love to help the salvos"—he then goes on to say he is a Rabbitohs fan, but we will ignore that bit. When I tweeted that the Governor had visited Braidwood for its 175th birthday, he tweeted back:

I have known Marie Bashir for 20 years before she ran westmead hospital and used to get on really well still do god bless her.

Many members have mentioned that she was able to connect with people and make each individual feel as if they had a personal connection with her. Bundeestick demonstrates how true that is. In her Speech today the Governor spoke about how our diligent families on the land and other Australian participants in the rural sector should be able to count on appropriate support in time of critical strain. The Governor was there when people were in trouble—in drought or in flood.

During the time I was Minister for Emergency Services the Governor gave fantastic support to the volunteers and the communities that were affected by emergencies and disasters. Her comment in her Speech today that these communities should get appropriate support in times of critical strain reminds me that this Government has dropped the ball on that issue and it should take the Governor's words seriously. By her actions the Governor demonstrated that she cared about all those people facing serious problems. She has done a fabulous job. I join everybody in this place in acknowledging her wonderful efforts and thanking her for her work for New South Wales.

**Mr SCOT MacDONALD** [5.46 p.m.]: I join other speakers in recognising the momentous occasion today, which we will remember for a long time. I would like to add my thanks to Her Excellency Governor Bashir for her distinguished service. Her Excellency has worked tirelessly and with obvious compassion and empathy towards all of the people of New South Wales. I was always struck by the Governor's eagerness to include regional communities in her commitments. That clearly arose from her upbringing in the Riverina and her understanding of the challenges of country life. It very much resonates with regional people when they have an opportunity to tell their stories and to share their journey through the good times and the tougher spells.

It is always heartening to see someone of the Governor's stature—perhaps not in a physical sense but certainly in regard to her intellect and personality—visiting communities after a fire, a flood or other event that country Australians face year after year. I had not had a great deal of contact with Her Excellency before taking up my position in this House 3½ years ago; her office seemed remote. But that changed when I encountered the Governor at one of the many functions held in this Parliament. After the speeches Governor Bashir circulated and, to my surprise, she engaged my son and me in conversation—a similar experience to that related by the Hon. Steve Whan. My son Alex is quiet and he was a little awestruck. Without effort, Her Excellency struck up a conversation with Alex and they shared stories about country New South Wales and growing up in a small town. Her interaction was natural and it was impressive. Not many have that gift and New South Wales is the richer for her unassuming and generous personality.

The Governor of New South Wales gave an uplifting Speech on the achievements and aspirations of New South Wales. Fittingly, we are reminded to govern for all and not to forget the less fortunate. I am hopeful that will be an ongoing feature of this Government. I thank Her Excellency for her service and I look forward to the next chapter in the governance of this State under the incoming appointee, Retired General David Hurley.

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH** [5.49 p.m.]: I support the motion before the House relating to Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, AD, CVO. My contribution will be brief. Like the previous speaker, Mr Scot MacDonald, I had not encountered Her Excellency until I came to the Parliament. It was not an office I had a great deal to do with. However, I can remember the time we trooped down Macquarie Street to the Governor's residence and walked into that fantastic building. Her Excellency engaged everyone. It was humbling to meet her. After I became a parliamentary secretary I had the opportunity to meet her, and three occasions particularly come to mind.

The first was a function at Belgenny Farm at Camden, the Macarthur Farm. At that function I met Sir Nicholas, who at that stage hobbled around with crook knees and ankles—"one tackle too many" was the

comment made today at lunch. I had my youngest son with me and Sir Nicholas was keen to talk to my son about sporting activities, guiding the conversation away from the more formal talk of the function. Her Excellency showed an interest in my son, his education, his plans, where he was going. She engaged him at a level that an adolescent boy appreciated. At that time I was taken with the way she engaged with my son. She clearly understood the mind of an adolescent boy.

Not long after I attended a function at Northparkes Mine. I think the Hon. Duncan Gay may have been at the function as well. Again, I was in awe of the way Her Excellency went about her work at that function. She engaged everyone to a great degree. She had no favourites but she could remember amazing tidbits of information about individuals she had met, and she must have met many thousands of people. When she spoke to me she asked about my son. I was amazed that she remembered the previous encounter at Belgenny Farm.

A few months later, as the Parliamentary Secretary for Primary Industries, I attended a function at the Royal Easter Show. Sir Nicholas was at the function as well. Again, I was amazed that Her Excellency and Sir Nicholas immediately recognised my son from the previous occasion and engaged him in conversation. Sir Nicholas took him aside and again talked about the importance of sport and making sure that my son was happy playing soccer, as everyone knows he does. I again was taken by the way they engaged with my son.

Her Excellency is a truly remarkable woman. I am in awe, as I think we all are, of her tireless advocacy for the underprivileged and Indigenous Australians. When my daughter was school captain at Young High School she had an opportunity to meet Her Excellency. She came home and talked at length about Her Excellency as a significant inspiration for girls growing up in country New South Wales. After that meeting my daughter said, "So, Dad, a young girl from country New South Wales really can do amazing things." Her Excellency is an amazing woman.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR** [5.53 p.m.]: I support this outstanding motion. My contribution will be similar to those of previous speakers. I will not go through the history of Her Excellency but simply relate a story about the contact I had with her on one occasion when I represented the member for Upper Hunter, the Hon. George Souris, at the Aberdeen Scottish Festival in his electorate. I took my wife and my son to the event, and I introduced my then eight-year-old son Lachlan to Her Excellency. The first thing she said to my son was, "Lachlan, you are named after my favourite Governor of New South Wales, Lachlan Macquarie." That engaged him immediately. I then informed Her Excellency that Lachlan was born in Leeton, which is about 30 kilometres from Narrandera. She then told him that she was from Narrandera and that they were almost cousins.

As part of the official proceedings at the Aberdeen Scottish Festival we had to stand on a stage while pipe bands marched past the stage in a procession and the clans saluted Her Excellency. As the bands started to march towards the stage Her Excellency turned around and saw that she was standing in front of Lachlan and he could not see what was happening. So she turned around and said to my son, "Lachlan, you can't see from where you are there. You come around and stand with me." We now have a picture on our mantelpiece at home of my then eight-year-old son Lachlan standing on the stage with Her Excellency, her arm around him basically hugging him as 300 pipers marched past the stage and saluted. That sums up the type of person the Governor is; although she was there to carry out her official duties, she was more concerned about the boy in the row behind her not being able to see what was happening.

Many of the tributes we have heard today show a similar characteristic in that the Governor is always thinking about other people. That is why she has been a fantastic Governor for New South Wales. She has tirelessly served the people. She gave up what should be a time in her life to sit back and reflect on an amazing career, her achievements and the contributions she has made in the medical field for the opportunity to serve the people of New South Wales. At all times, even in a small town like Aberdeen, she was thinking about other people rather than herself. On the day, the official function was supposed to finish and her car was supposed to leave at 2.00 p.m. But at 4.30 p.m. poor Sir Nicholas was sitting in the tent, because his knees had just about given up, while Her Excellency was still visiting stallholders, shaking hands, and wanting to know what made a difference in the lives of people in that area. Her Excellency will live on in that picture in our household. As the Hon. Mick Veitch said about his son, the Governor had a defining impact on the life of my son from one conversation and the interest she showed in him that day. I commend the motion.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL** [5.57 p.m.]: Tonight I congratulate Her Excellency the Governor Professor Marie Bashir on her tenure as Governor of New South Wales for the past 13½ years. As many have noted in this debate, Marie Bashir became the first woman to be appointed Governor of New South Wales. She

was immediately heralded as an ideal choice that represented a modern Australia. After the Governor's first media conference, one commentator remarked that it was a "warm-hearted start to what promises to be an inclusive and progressive period for this office". As others have said, Marie Bashir was born in the New South Wales country town of Narrandera and came from a non-English speaking background. As such, her appointment carried enormous symbolic significance and brought the issues of Indigenous health, advancing reconciliation and innovation in health service delivery to the forefront of the agenda.

At the core of the Governor's interests were humanitarian concerns and the hope that those who felt marginalised and forgotten would have a seat at the table. From the outset she became a catalyst for fighting for Indigenous rights, troubled youth, the poor and homeless, those from different cultural backgrounds and those living in remote country areas. The Governor continued this push for greater acceptance of diversity throughout her term in office, with her typical activities including hosting functions for Indigenous doctors, attending Gay and Lesbian Business Association dinners and addressing the University Buddhist Education Foundation. The Governor was also dedicated to high school ceremonies, including at many schools outside metropolitan areas, and was always keen to meet with potential future leaders in Australia and hear of the issues that affect young people. It has been great to hear some personal experiences about that in this debate.

The Governor, coming from a regional area, has always been an unwavering advocate for rural residents of New South Wales. During her term she has given much of her time to visiting as many towns as possible. Earlier today I was reminded of a visit she made in 2008 to the Barwon electorate not far from where I live in Gunnedah, where she attended 10 functions in two days. That is testament to her work ethic and how much she wanted to get out and meet the people while she was in those communities. Her Excellency is also an avid patron and supporter of a variety of charities, some of which have already been mentioned in the debate. The Governor has been a strong advocate for and patron of two amazing organisations, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Royal Far West, which offer services to people in regional communities.

I will conclude my contribution by recounting my personal experience with the Governor. I have met Her Excellency only on a couple of occasions, one of which was when I was presented as a member at Government House not long after my election to the Legislative Council. As other members will appreciate, often the first days and weeks in this role are a whirlwind. I had never been to Government House before or met the Governor but when I did it was an incredible honour but also a daunting experience. I was afraid I would say the wrong thing in such a formal setting.

After the formal ceremony I was having a cup tea on the veranda overlooking the lovely gardens when Her Excellency came to chat with me. I told her I was from Gunnedah, which at that time needed rain. We chatted about the impact of the drought on the whole community, not just the farmers, and the importance of country people keeping an eye on one another. During that conversation it was evident to me that she got it: she was a girl from the bush and she knew what it was like when times were tough. In that moment I was able to see past her position as Governor and look at her as a person. In a sense, we were just two country girls having a conversation over a cup of tea. It was a special moment for me.

As a female from a regional area and as a mother of a daughter particularly, I was privileged to meet the Governor and have that conversation. I will pass onto my daughter the knowledge that young women, particularly those from regional areas, can achieve anything that they set out to do. I congratulate and thank Her Excellency once again on her exemplary service to the people of New South Wales as Governor. I wish her and her husband, Sir Nicholas, all the best for the future.

**The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS** [6.02 p.m.]: There has always been a tension between the Executive and the Legislature in the history of the Westminster tradition. Over time, however, the power of the absolute monarch has fallen away to the advisers of the absolute monarch. The absoluteness of that monarchy has not changed in theory but in practice. The monarch or the monarch's representative takes the advice of those chosen by the people. Thus we find in the modern Governor or Governor-General the true principle "Vox populi, vox Dei". They are both the voice of the people and the voice of God.

Marie Bashir has been an outstanding Governor and if we look to the history of this State we will realise that that is not guaranteed. New South Wales has had a wide range of governors over time. We have had the great builders, the early governors of this place; we have had the disasters, such as Bligh and Beauchamp whose notorious birth stain comment ensured that his time in the colony was likely, and turned out to be, both unhappy and unwelcome. We have had governors, such as Philip Game, who were heroes to some and villains

to others, depending on one's political perspective; and we have had those who were genuinely and sincerely loved and whose cessation of time in office was met across politics, class, religions and all internal divisions with sadness and best wishes for their future.

Of those, in the entire history of New South Wales, only three can be said to have left office to sadness and to universal acclaim of their time in office. I do not mean to disparage the four good men and good governors before Professor Marie Bashir. The three I refer to are Lord Carrington, Sir Arthur Roden Cutler and Dame Marie Bashir: three great Governors, three great people, three great Australians.

**The Hon. JENNIFER GARDINER** [6.05 p.m.], in reply: I thank all members for their contributions to the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech. Earlier today the President presented a speech to a function in Parliament House in tribute to the Governor. I seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard* the President's Toast to Her Excellency Dame Marie Bashir at the members' and former members' lunch held this day in Her Excellency's honour.

### Leave granted.

---

Your Excellency:

There are many things which could be said this afternoon and many which have been said about your extraordinary contribution to the public life of our State of New South Wales and the Commonwealth of Australia.

I want therefore to concentrate on reflecting on your Constitutional role as the holder of the oldest continuous public office in Australia as Governor of this State and the longest serving Administrator of the Commonwealth.

Throughout this troubled world, at this very point in time, and with our memories fresh with the anniversary of the First World War, it is worth pausing to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in a Parliamentary democracy.

Our system combines the unique features of the authority and history of the Crown—which you represent—the legitimising mandate of the people—which I represent in this place—and the protection from arbitrary or unlawful exercise of those powers which the Judiciary provides—as represented by the Chief Justice.

As the representative of the Crown you are welcome in every corner of this State, every village and community—but in this building you cannot set foot in the Chamber of the Lower House—because 372 years ago the wearer of a Crown tried to interfere with the liberty of his subjects' representatives. The resolution of that conflict gave us the conventions and procedure we took part in this morning. But more importantly, they underline the unrivalled system of Government which we are so fortunate to enjoy in this great State and Country.

Nevertheless as Marie Bashir you are indeed welcome everywhere and I know that in your retirement that welcome will continue unabated.

What you have done so brilliantly as Governor is show to all the people of this State that in you there is both constitutional authority and power and yet a complete personal humility which has made every citizen think of you as their Governor—concerned about and caring about each of them personally, about their communities, about their aspirations and their futures.

Your life has been, is, and no doubt will continue to be one of continuous service, your journey as inspiring one. From the small town of Narrandera—the "place of the frill necked lizard" in the Wiradjuri language—the ancestral home of the Narrungderra people—daughter of migrant parents to Government House—to Yarralumla—to Buckingham Palace—is certainly a long winding track.

Walking that track you have never forgotten those origins—your concern for migrant families and the dispossessed and disadvantaged; your love for and commitment to our Indigenous people and your joy in the beauty of the bush —has travelled with you.

It has been our privilege that you have shared so much of that with us—and in doing so you have honoured us, enriched all of our lives; strengthened the system of parliamentary democracy and have so richly earned and deserved the love of all your loyal fellow citizens.

Ladies and gentlemen please stand.

---

**The Hon. JENNIFER GARDINER:** I thank the Hon. Amanda Fazio, the Hon. Luke Foley, the Hon. Duncan Gay, the Hon. John Ajaka, Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile, Dr John Kaye, the Hon. Robert Brown, the Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox, the Hon. Adam Searle, the Hon. Helen Westwood, the Hon. Walt Secord, the Hon. Greg Pearce, the Hon. Melinda Pavey, the Hon. Sophie Cotsis, the Hon. Marie Ficarra, the Hon. Catherine Cusack, the Hon. Ernest Wong, the Hon. David Clarke, the Hon. Penny Sharpe, the Hon. Trevor Khan, the Hon. Steve Whan, Mr Scot MacDonald, the Hon. Mick Veitch, the Hon. Niall Blair, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps and anyone I missed for their contributions to the Address-in-Reply.

The Leader of the Government, the Hon. Duncan Gay, earlier mentioned the support of the Governor's family whilst she has been in her important role. I am sure members of the Legislative Council would also want to particularly note our respect and affection for Alex Shehadie in this place. The daughter of the Governor and Sir Nicholas Shehadie, Alex, served as a committee officer working on, for example, reports of the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues inquiries into juvenile justice, youth violence, violence in society, and sexual violence as well as a report on suicide in rural New South Wales. She was regarded as a very fine writer and researcher. Alex was very highly regarded by current and former members. I know, for example, that the Hon. Doug Moppett and the Hon. Ann Symonds were great supporters of Alex. It is also fitting to include Alex in these remarks. The Clerks of the Legislative Council, the committee staff and staff of the Parliament hold her in great esteem as a former employee of the Parliament of New South Wales.

Members have referred to so many of the wonderful characteristics of the Governor and the elements that made up her work as the second-longest serving Governor in New South Wales. They have referred to her being the first female Governor, her diligence at Executive Council meetings, her intelligence, intellect and compassion and how Her Excellency set the contemporary benchmark for governors in this country. They also spoke of her background in Narrandera and Braidwood, her education at Sydney Girls High School, her Lebanese heritage, her personal touch, her extraordinary capacity for community engagement, her charisma, her dignity, her wonderful connection with young people, including little children, her leadership on rapprochement with Indigenous Australians, her love of history, including the role of W. C. Wentworth and Lachlan Macquarie in the history and development of New South Wales, and her chancellorship and other roles at the University of Sydney, an institution which she loves greatly.

Members also referred to the "people's Governor". Maybe that is the way she will be remembered for a very long time to come. They also mentioned the Governor's kindness, warmth, empathy, wisdom and wit. They said she had a special concern for and empathy with country people, including in times of natural disaster. Various members referred to her early visits and stories attaching thereto and her support and patronage of various charities such as the Royal Far West and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Members have also spoken about Her Excellency's work in adolescent and mental health; the many honours that have been bestowed upon her, here in Australia and overseas; her patronage of the arts; her support for HIV patients and other sick patients here and internationally; her support for members of the Defence Force; her support for minority groups, the marginalised and the dispossessed; her eschewing of publicity and making the Governor's role any sort of publicity contest; her diplomacy; and the great support given to her by Sir Nicholas Shehadie. A number of members have expressed sadness that her terms of office of Governor are coming to an end, but we are unanimous in recording our respect and gratitude to Her Excellency for the way she has fulfilled the role of Governor of New South Wales.

In moving the Address-in-Reply we offer our sincere congratulations on the way Her Excellency has undertaken the duties of her office with such great distinction and devotion. We extend to Her Excellency and to Sir Nicholas the warmest regards of this House.

**Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and resolved in the affirmative.**

**Motion agreed to.**

## **RESTORATION OF BUSINESS OF THE PREVIOUS SESSION**

### **Government Bills Originating in the Legislative Assembly**

**DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan):** I report the receipt of the following message from the Legislative Assembly:

Mr PRESIDENT

The Legislative Assembly informs the Legislative Council that it has this day agreed to the following resolution:

That a message be sent to the Council requesting that the following bills, forwarded to the Legislative Council for concurrence during the previous session of the present Parliament and not dealt with because of the prorogation of the Legislature, be restored to the Council's business paper:

Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Amendment (Snowy Advisory Committee) Bill 2013  
Passenger Transport Bill 2014  
Health Services Amendment (Ambulance Fees) Bill 2014

Fair Trading Amendment (Ticket Reselling) Bill 2014  
 Drug Court Legislation Amendment Bill 2014  
 Courts Legislation Amendment (Broadcasting Judgments) Bill 2014  
 Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Bill 2014  
 Water Management Amendment Bill 2014  
 Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2014  
 State Revenue Legislation Further Amendment Bill 2014  
 Mining Amendment (Small-scale Title Compensation) Bill 2014  
 Energy Legislation Amendment (Retail Price Deregulation) Bill 2014  
 Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Amendment (Fresh Start Support) Bill 2014  
 Crimes Amendment (Intoxication) Bill 2014  
 Government Sector Employment Legislation Amendment Bill 2014  
 Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment Bill 2013  
 Crimes Amendment (Zoe's Law) Bill 2013 (No 2)

Legislative Assembly  
 9 September 2014

SHELLEY HANCOCK  
 Speaker

### **Motion by the Hon. Duncan Gay agreed to:**

That, pursuant to Standing Order 159, the bills be restored to the *Notice Paper* at the stage they had reached in the previous session, including the same adjournment status, member speaking and debate time.

## **JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON SENTENCING OF CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT OFFENDERS**

### **Reappointment and Membership**

**DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan):** I report the receipt of the following message from the Legislative Assembly:

Mr PRESIDENT

The Legislative Assembly informs the Legislative Council that it has this day agreed to the following resolution:

- (1) A joint parliamentary select committee be reappointed to inquire into and report on:
  - (a) whether current sentencing options for perpetrators of child sexual assault remain effective; and
  - (b) whether greater consistency in sentencing and improving public confidence in the judicial system could be achieved through alternative sentencing options, including but not limited to minimum mandatory sentencing and anti-androgenic medication.
- (2) In examining this issue the committee should have regard to:
  - (a) the current sentencing patterns for child sexual assault;
  - (b) the operation of the standard minimum non-parole scheme;
  - (c) the experience of other jurisdictions with alternative sentencing options; and
  - (d) the New South Wales Law Reform Commission's Report 139 on Sentencing.
- (3) The committee to consist of seven members as follows:
  - (a) four members of the Legislative Assembly, namely Mr Casuscelli, Ms Gibbons, Mr Grant who shall be Chair, and Mr Lynch; and
  - (b) three members of the Legislative Council.
- (4) That at any meeting of the committee four members shall constitute a quorum, provided that the committee meets as a joint committee at all times.
- (5) The committee have leave to make visits of inspection within the State of New South Wales and other States and Territories of Australia.
- (6) A message be sent to the Legislative Council requesting the Legislative Council to agree to the resolution, nominate three of its members to the proposed committee, and to fix a time and place for the first meeting.

Legislative Assembly  
 9 September 2014

SHELLEY HANCOCK  
 Speaker



**Motion by the Hon. Duncan Gay agreed to:**

That this House:

- (1) Notwithstanding the view of the Legislative Council that select committees may sit during the life of the Parliament until such time as the committee completes its inquiry and presents its final report:
  - (a) agrees to the resolution in the Legislative Assembly's message of Tuesday 9 September 2014 relating to the reappointment of the Joint Select Committee on Sentencing of Child Sexual Offenders; and
  - (b) desires to inform the Legislative Assembly that the following members of the Legislative Council have been nominated for membership to the committee:
 

Government:	Mrs Pavey
Opposition:	Ms Westwood
Crossbench:	Reverend Mr Nile
- (2) That the time and place for the first meeting be Thursday 18 September at 1.00 p.m. in room 1043.

**Message forwarded to the Legislative advising it of the resolution.****ADJOURNMENT**

**The Hon. DUNCAN GAY** (Minister for Roads and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [6.18 p.m.]: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

**ISLAMIC COMMUNITY**

**The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE** [6.18 p.m.]: Australia's Islamic community, for reasons beyond its control, is under attack yet again. What happened on that fateful day of September 11 was not the act of Australia's Islamic community nor were the two bombings at the Boston Marathon, the killing of 31 civilians in China's western Xinjiang's region and the violent acts of Martin Bryant and Anders Breivik. For that matter, the Islamic community is not responsible for what the Islamic State stands for. Australians of Islamic faith are peaceful people in the same way that Australians of Christian, Buddhist, Sikh, Shinto, Jewish and other faiths, including those of no faith, are peaceful. Australians of all persuasions want a peaceful and secure Australia.

Migrants travel hundreds, if not thousands, of miles to come to this great land to live in peace and to provide for their children a happy and safe future. We must not blame them for the deeds of others. We must work with them rather than blame them, speak to them, consult with them, respect them, and in this way we will win them onside.

Radicalised Australians sought to join the fight against the Baathist government and they were allowed to leave unchecked, some would argue encouraged to go. The research paper written in December 2013 by Edwin Bakker, Christopher Paulussen and Eva Entenmann for the International Centre for Counter Terrorism titled "Dealing with European Foreign Fighters in Syria: Governance Challenges and Legal Implications", notes that the Washington Institute for Near East Policy reported that between 140 and 600 Europeans were estimated to have gone to Syria since early 2011. In the first half of 2012, 700 to 1,400 fighters had entered Syria and by winter of 2013 most experts were estimating there were between 1,100 and 1,700 individuals from Europe.

Others entered Syria to fight on the side of the government and some were sponsored by Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar and other regional players. The number of foreign fighters with a jihadist agenda participating in the Syrian civil war increased exponentially and alarm bells began to sound for policymakers, as they would have for our own Government. Our governments would have known and ought to have known of the probability that returned Australian fighters, hardened and exposed to war, would pose a potential threat to Australia's national security.

The blame and responsibility for the radicalisation of some therefore cannot lie with Australia's Muslim community. Our governments failed to take the necessary proactive measures prior to the radicalisation of a few of our citizens and the potential realisation of danger. Furthermore, the anti-terror laws under which this Government could have acted were already in place. People should not blame the Islamic community for what is currently unfolding. Key representative organisations are doing their best and have spoken out. The Australian National Imams Council believes that all citizens have a vested interest in the ongoing safety and security of the

country. The president of Muslims Australia, Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, noted that as law abiding citizens Muslims are conscious of their rights and responsibilities when it comes to the safety and security of Australia.

Darulfatwa Australia noted that Darulfatwa's constitution rests on actively rejecting all forms of extremism, especially those who unlawfully use the name of Islam. The Lebanese Muslim Association notes that Australian Muslims are as much concerned as non-Muslims, if not more, for the security and safety of our country. Almajarat Australia notes that all Australians from all different religions, multicultural backgrounds and origins must work to protect Australia from harm. Finally, in addressing a community fundraiser in support of the Iraqi Chaldeans, a Christian community, Sheikh Azam of the Rahma Association of Australia Inc. condemned the terrible acts of terror and stood in solidarity with all innocent people in Iraq.

The rotten politics of racial or religious divide must stop. All Australians are on "team Australia" and it should not be a "them" and "us" mentality with a good guys and bad guys division. Playing to the polls on the back of your community's fears is a shameful act. I condemn the labelling. To me those who play the race card are as abhorrent as those who play the religious divide. I respect all faiths. I encourage all people to practise their religion in peace and security and I condemn those who politicise religion and speak of sectarianism such as Catholic versus Orthodox or Sunni versus Shia. It is abhorrent. For a harmonious Australia that must stop now.

### WHITE BALLOON DAY

**The Hon. PAUL GREEN** [6.23 p.m.]: Tonight I will speak about White Balloon Day. This event has been run by the Bravehearts organisation for a number of years now. White Balloon Day is Bravehearts' annual signature event held to raise awareness and funds for Australian children affected by sexual assault. The white balloon is considered symbolic of the issue of child sexual assault following a public demonstration held in Belgium in 1996. In that year 300,000 people gathered with white balloons and white flowers in a show of public sympathy and support for the parents of several young girls who were either murdered or abducted by notorious repeat sex offender Marc Dutroux.

Launched in 1997, the Australia-wide campaign is a key fixture during National Child Protection Week with funds raised going towards education, prevention and case management programs for the one in five Australian children sexually assaulted in some way before their eighteenth birthday. This year, the event will be held on 12 September with the campaign theme being the twitter hashtag #whoRUp Protecting. While the substance of this issue is of utmost seriousness White Balloon Day is a simple, fun and effective way to reach out to your friends, family and community to promote child protection.

Bravehearts is inviting schools, childcare centres, universities, small and large businesses, churches and governments—anyone and everyone passionate about child protection—to participate in the event by raising funds and/or awareness for Bravehearts and the one in five Australian children sexually assaulted in some way before their eighteenth birthday. I encourage all members of this Chamber to be involved in this very important event by hosting a white themed event, holding a morning tea, organising a free-dress day at your child's school or at your workplace, or by encouraging your community to take part in a walkathon to raise funds for Aussie kids.

You can be involved through social media by uploading a selfie-snap to #whoRUp Protecting. The selfie requires you to answer the question, "Who are you protecting?" and to display the answer in a photograph. You can purchase a Protect Kids photo, a Bravehearts Protect Kids t-shirt or you can snap a picture of yourself in the shirt and share it on social media. Telling your story is another avenue through which you can participate. Do you have a story to tell? Bravehearts can work with you to inspire others in the community to act for child protection. Members can positively promote Bravehearts and White Balloon Day on your social media accounts using #whoRUp Protecting and #whiteballoonday.

Involvement in White Balloon Day will show that you and your community have zero tolerance for child sexual assault. It will actively encourage the need to break the silence and support and empower survivors. It will place the need to protect children above all other considerations and make you and your community part of the solution by activating change. I commend a number of celebrities for getting involved in this worthy cause including Nine Network presenter Natalie Gruzlewski, *House Husbands* actor Edwina Royce, 2013 *Big Brother* participant Nathan Little, *Hey Dad!* actors Sarah Monahan and Simone Buchanan, *Ten News* anchor Matt Doran, V8 Supercar ace James Courtney and performer Rachael Beck.

I understand that last year community groups, schools, businesses, councils and passionate individuals worked with Bravehearts to deliver its largest campaign with more than 1,300 fundraising events held nationally. Bravehearts founder and Chief Executive Officer Hetty Johnston is urging all Australians to register an event today and take a selfie to pledge support. Ms Johnston states:

Child protection is everyone's responsibility and we all have children in our lives who we love and want to protect.

Child sexual assault is preventable. By helping us we can put a stop to it. Let's do this as a nation, and together we can exact change and make a big difference to so many.

It is Bravehearts' vision to make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child by 2020 and we will achieve that as long as my feet touch the ground, but we need help and we need the community to pull together.

I commend this important initiative to the House.

### **UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES FORMER EMPLOYEE DR PAUL BARACH**

**Dr JOHN KAYE** [6.28 p.m.]: In August the disgraceful treatment of anaesthetist and researcher Dr Paul Barach by the University of New South Wales [UNSW] took another shameful turn. Having sacked a world-leading scientist in the critical field of patient safety and health reform on what could only be characterised as trumped-up charges UNSW management spent millions of taxpayers' dollars to defend the decision. It appears that by the middle of this year the deep pockets of the university had exhausted Dr Barach's finances leaving him, after five years, with little choice but to attempt to escape from the nightmare that his life in Sydney had become.

From what is publicly known of the confidential settlement UNSW extracted something akin to an apology. It can be safely presumed that this prisoner-like coercion was far from freely given with the Barach family undoubtedly facing financial ruin. The *Australian* newspaper journalist Richard Guilliat's defamatory character assassination of Dr Barach painted a picture that is misleading and outright malicious. Further, it is clear that Guilliat had access to the university's files, including the so-called apology document. Barach's claims were never allowed to be aired in court. He was never charged with any crime. In fact, the allegations against him were withdrawn. While Barach may have recanted what he told me, I emphatically stand behind everything I have told this Chamber on this matter because it is based on documentary records I have seen or have in my possession.

The case Barach raised, supported by his New South Wales boss, Professor Archer, and senior medicos in NSW Health, involved unmasking experiments on children with cerebral palsy. The children were placed at risk by poor clinical judgement and oversight errors, illegal experiments, and gross violations of child privacy, data storage, and police child protection laws. Guilliat tries to minimise these findings. The statements he made in respect of the Motion Analysis Laboratory are incorrect and deeply misleading. Sydney Children's Hospital conducted an investigation to determine whether surgeries on children reliant on New South Wales Gait Laboratory data resulted in adverse events. Several adverse findings were found that led to closure of the lab and the removal of Dr McIntosh. Scores of patients and their families suffered.

In previous speeches, I have detailed Dr Barach's reputation at the universities of Harvard, Chicago, Miami, South Florida and Utrecht spanning a career of 20 years. It was exemplary according to detailed letters of support from department chairs and medical school deans and administrators. They laud Dr Barach's "contributions and expertise" and his "academic integrity, financial management and his excellent clinical skills". They highlight his commitment to making health care safer for patients. This is why the University of New South Wales hired him. It is extraordinary that the university ignored this evidence and relied instead on the testimony from a messy divorce case. Matrimonial conflict is a private matter and the evidence such cases produce is notoriously unreliable.

Guilliat raised the issue of misleading claims on Barach's curriculum vitae and grant applications. As I have previously pointed out, these were nothing but minor typographical errors and were limited to three entries out of his 100 page curriculum vitae and hundreds of grants and papers. Significantly, they were introduced by an administrative assistant. Barach's direct supervisors at the University of New South Wales, deans of science Archer and Dawes, investigated the matter and judged the lapses "to be relatively minor", that "the allegations are not upheld", and they were "unlikely to constitute a demonstration of an intention to mislead or gain advantage". Yet for these trivial errors, which one academic described as "things that happen

to all academics", Barach was sacked by email on the same day that the damning findings against Vice-Chancellor Fred Hilmer's son-in-law Andrew Macintosh and his management of the Gait laboratory were released.

Guilliatt casts doubt over Barach's integrity, adding yet more deceitful fuel to the campaign of insinuation and smear used by the University of New South Wales to blacken his name and to intimidate supporters. It is impossible to escape the parallels to the Dreyfus case. Despite the innuendo and the bullying, scores of Professor Barach's academic and medical colleagues, including many with whom he had worked closely, have rallied to his defence and continue to stand with him. Guilliatt deliberately did not report the Australian and international outcry from world-leading doctors and scientists that greeted Barach's sacking. Guilliatt claims my defence has tarnished the reputation of the University of New South Wales. He quotes an anonymous international academic as saying:

The state's image abroad was tarnished. These effects will reverberate for years.

I am sure that much greater damage is done when good people like Dr Barach are victimised for doing the right thing and the rest of us turn a blind eye for fear of offending the State's power elites. If the reputation of UNSW has been impaired it was not by me; it is because high-achieving, committed professionals who seek a life here will know that they too will be vulnerable if they dare speak truth to power.

### **MALAYSIA AIRLINES FLIGHT MH17**

**The Hon. MARIE FICARRA** (Parliamentary Secretary) [6.33 p.m.]: It is with great sadness that I draw the attention of the House to the MH17 catastrophe. On 17 July 2014 Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, travelling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, was brutally shot down by a surface-to-air missile fired by pro-Russian separatists, killing all on board—283 passengers who included 38 Australians and 15 crew members. As described by our Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Julie Bishop, this whole incident can be described only as deplorable and barbaric. This catastrophe, which so wrongly stole the lives of 298 innocent victims, has shocked and saddened the world.

On 7 August, the nation honoured and mourned those lives lost in this horrid tragedy at a national memorial service at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne. The service was attended by Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, MC, Premier Mike Baird and many other community leaders. I was honoured to join Mr Wasyl Senko and other representatives of the New South Wales Ukrainian community on Saturday 30 August to commemorate 40 days since the MH17 disaster. A solemn procession from the Opera House to St Mary's Cathedral was followed by a panakhyda memorial service. It is Ukrainian custom across all faiths to solemnly mark someone's passing on the fortieth day after their death, signifying the day the soul of the deceased is judged by God. Prayers are offered in support of their ascension into heaven and we continue to pray for their eternal peace, and for their families and friends to somehow out of their personal despair find peace of mind.

I commend the work of all the Australian officials and their international counterparts for their outstanding efforts and performance in the aftermath of the disaster. Special mention must be made of Australia's special envoy, Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, and the Australian Federal Police mission chief, Brian McDonald, his Dutch counterpart, police chief Cornelius Kuijs, and their teams, who have worked tirelessly over months searching for the remains and belongings of those victims strewn across more than 50 square kilometres of Ukrainian countryside. Dozens of Australian and Dutch police have been blocked from going to the site by separatist fighting throughout the region, resulting in both Australian and Dutch governments having to suspend their forensic investigation of the crash site on 7 August.

Political instability, increasing fighting and the deteriorating security situation throughout eastern Ukraine have made the mission increasingly unsafe. We must recognise the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, whose officers have safeguarded our forensic team personnel, having safely negotiated their passage through rebel occupied lands to reach the crash site and the surrounding areas.

I commend the efforts of the Commonwealth Government, with a special mention of the Prime Minister, the Hon. Tony Abbott, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Julie Bishop. When the United Nations Security Council met in the aftermath of this tragedy, it unanimously passed an Australian resolution condemning the downing of the flight and demanding immediate access to the crash site, the repatriation of the remains of those killed and authorising an independent international investigation. The success of this international resolution can be attributed to the rapid and tactful diplomatic efforts led by Minister Julie Bishop.

Similarly, the Prime Minister's response was that of passionate determination, taking a critically and justifiably resolute stand against the Russian President, Vladimir Putin. Mr Abbott must be praised for being the first world leader to express his strong dissatisfaction with Russia's handling of the incident. The Prime Minister's leadership in Operation Bring Them Home, repatriation of victims of MH17 and his thanks conveyed in The Hague to more than 500 Australian police, military and consular staff will be forever be respected by all Australians.

Special thanks must be offered for the strong and positive leadership shown by our Ukrainian and Russian community leaders in doing everything possible to maintain harmony and respectful dialogue during these stressful times for their homeland nations with so many needless deaths and injuries in the defence of Ukrainian sovereignty and natural justice. I thank in particular the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations led by President Stefan Romaniw and his executive including Peter Shmigel, the Public Affairs Director. Their efforts in promoting the democratic rights and freedom of speech for all Ukrainians have been demonstrated over many years. Together we pray for a return to a unified sovereign Ukraine that can focus on social, economic and democratic growth as part of a greater European family.

### RURAL AND REGIONAL ROADS

**The Hon. WALT SECORD** [6.38 p.m.]: I speak as shadow Minister for Roads and shadow Minister for the North Coast to make a contribution on rural, regional and coastal roads. The Baird Government is claiming that it is spending an all-time record amount on roads outside Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle. In reality, it has delivered a hodge-podge of re-badgings, blatant reannouncements, and endless feasibility and planning studies. First, to reach this figure the Government has simply combined statewide port and freight infrastructure with road funding.

Secondly, it is claiming projects initiated and funding provided by previous State and Federal Labor governments. This includes projects like the Hunter Expressway, which was initiated by and a product of the hard work undertaken during the global financial crisis by the Federal member for the Hunter, Joel Fitzgibbon. On the North Coast, the member for Richmond, Justine Elliot, will tell a similar tale about the Sexton Hill bypass on the Pacific Highway. The State Government says that \$1.2 billion will be spent on the Pacific Highway. However, it will not say that \$807 million of that was allocated by the Labor Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese.

The Liberal-Nationals State Government is now entering its fourth year in government and it is time it started to honour its commitments such as improvements to the Bells Line of Road, the Tangaratta Bridge near Tamworth and the Coonabarabran bypass. Two examples of commitments are the funding of the Newcastle inner city bypass stage 5 and the Adamstown rail crossing, both of which are in the Hunter. The budget papers reveal they are providing \$500,000 in planning money for stage 5. As for the Adamstown rail crossing, it is listed but there is no dollar figure. It appears in a list of projects vaguely entitled "Traffic Efficiency Improvements Program in 2014-15", which I secured under a freedom of information request.

Let us turn to their signature national road commitment, the Pacific Highway. On 21 February 2011, Nationals leader Andrew Stoner, who is now Deputy Premier, promised that the Pacific Highway would be dual carriageway from Newcastle to the Queensland border by 2016. They promised that a State Liberal-Nationals Government would complete the full duplication of the 669 kilometres of the Pacific Highway by 2016, including 180 kilometres between Woolgoolga and Ballina. But early this year the Minister for Roads and Freight, Duncan Gay, pushed that to well beyond 2020—and that deadline is rubbery.

On two separate occasions in August I raised the issue of the Pacific Highway in this Parliament. I asked the Deputy Premier, Andrew Stoner, on 21 August at budget estimates and the Minister for Roads and Freight, Duncan Gay, on 12 August in question time about breaking their election promise. Their answers were just political attacks on Labor and a re-invention of history.

Sadly, northern New South Wales has recorded the highest regional road toll in the last 12 months for a State region. There have been 65 road deaths within the Roads and Maritime Services' northern region, which extends to the Queensland border. In an average year there are 72 road deaths in the region, so we are almost at that figure with four months remaining in the year. Furthermore, the NRMA has identified the North Coast portion of the Pacific Highway as the worst section of road in the State. One of the trickiest announcements by The Nationals has been their so-called Fixing Country Roads program announced earlier this month. The Nationals have marketed it as a windfall for the country.

In fact, it is a competitive dog-eat-dog process, in which local councils fight over crumbs at the Minister's table with a mere \$37.5 million split between 110 local councils. All of this deceit comes at a time when the NRMA earlier this year revealed that New South Wales has a \$4 billion rural and regional road funding backlog. The NRMA has said that Taree, Port Macquarie, Clarence Valley, Cessnock, Byron shire, Greater Hume and Wyong top the list of local councils needing the most attention in the State.

In Opposition, the Liberals and The Nationals promised to fix things, but in government we get only excuses, broken promises and the blame game. Regional communities rely entirely on regional roads because there are no other options. Poor roads are dangerous roads. Poor roads restrict regional businesses and risk lives. Unfortunately, the State Government sees roads as valuable for only one thing—revenue raising.

Our State roads have become cash cows for the Baird Government. Since 2011 it has collected a record \$409 million in fines. That is almost \$560,000 in fines a day. Earlier this year the State Government admitted that it had planned to install 200 more fixed cameras across the State by December 2015. This is on top of the existing 126 red-light speed cameras, 108 fixed speed cameras and 24 point-to-point cameras. Furthermore, in December 2013 the State Liberal-Nationals Government expanded its 45 mobile speed camera program from 900 hours a month to 7,000 a month in 640 separate locations across the State.

Last Friday, as shadow roads Minister, I visited the Jenoptik Australia headquarters in Newcastle to see firsthand the technology used in mobile speed cameras the Government is rolling across the State. It was very informative and I will have much more to say on this matter later. If this Government is going to raise revenue from roads then the least it can do is return it to roads. The Minister claims all \$409 million is going to road safety—that is simply untrue and a blatant lie. Repairing New South Wales roads is a big job, and it has to be done in partnership with local governments and local councils. Eighty per cent of all roads are under local government responsibility and this Government needs to work with them responsibly. There is also added pressure on local councils, especially after the Abbott Government slashed \$288 million worth of assistance grants to New South Wales councils. [*Time expired.*]

## BASIC PRINCIPLES

**The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS** [6.43 p.m.]: Fifty years ago this year Ayn Rand spoke about the dangers of compromise and the abandonment of one's ideology for the sake of a pragmatic approach. I remind members of the three rules which she listed in relation to this. Firstly, in any conflict between two people or two groups who hold the same basic principles, it is the more consistent one who wins. Secondly, in any collaboration between two people or two groups who hold different basic principles, it is the more evil or irrational one who wins. Thirdly, when opposite basic principles are clearly and openly defined, it works to the advantage of the rational side; when they are not clearly defined but are hidden or evaded, it works to the advantage of the irrational side. How are those predictions working today?

A major symptom of society's intellectual and moral disintegration is the shrinking of vision and goals, the progressive disappearance of abstraction from man's mental processes or from society's concerns. The manifestation of the disintegration of consciousness is the inability to think in terms of principles and only to think in terms of pragmatism. A principle is a fundamental, primary or general truth on which other truths depend. It is only by means of principles that one can set one's long-range goals and evaluate the concrete alternatives of any given moment. It is only principles that enable a person to plan their future and to achieve it.

The present state of our culture may be gauged by the extent to which principles have vanished from public discussion, reducing our cultural and political atmosphere to the petty senselessness of a bickering family that haggles over trivialities while betraying all of its major values, selling out its future for some spurious advantage of the moment. To make it more grotesque, that haggling is accompanied by an aura of self-righteousness in the form of assertions that one must forever compromise with anybody on anything, except on the tenet that one must compromise, and by panicky appeals to pragmatism.

But there is nothing as impractical as a so-called practical man. His view of practicality can best be illustrated as follows: if you want to drive from Sydney to Perth it is impractical and idealistic to consult a map and to select the best way to get there. You will get there much faster if you just start driving at random, turning or cutting any corner, taking any road in any direction, following nothing but the mood and the weather of the moment. The fact is, of course, that by this method you will never get there at all. But while most people do recognise this fact in regard to the course of a journey, they are not so perceptive in regard to the course of their life or of their country.

Firstly, when two people or groups hold the same basic principles yet oppose each other on a given issue, it means that at least one of them is inconsistent. Since basic principles determine the ultimate goal of any long-range process of action, the person who holds a clearer, more consistent view of the end to be achieved will be more consistently right in his choice of means and the contradictions of their opponent will work to their advantage, psychologically and existentially. Psychologically the inconsistent person will endorse and propagate the same ideas as their adversary, but in a weaker, less targeted form. Existentially every step or measure taken to achieve their common goal will necessitate further and more crucial steps or measures in the same direction, unless the goal is rejected and the basic principle reversed, thus strengthening the leadership of the consistent person and reducing the inconsistent one to impotence.

The conflict will follow that course regardless of whether the basic principles shared by the two adversaries are right or wrong, true or false, rational or irrational. For instance, consider the conflict between the Liberal and Labor parties and, within each party, the same conflict between the Left and the Right. Since both parties hold altruism as their basic moral principle, both advocate a mixed economy or welfare state as their ultimate goal. Every government control imposed on the economy, regardless of those in favour, necessitates the imposition of further controls to alleviate, momentarily, the disasters caused by the first control. Since Labor has more consistently committed to the growth of government power, the Liberals are reduced to helpless "me too-ing", to inept plagiarism of any program initiated by Labor and to the disgraceful confession implied in their claim that they seek to achieve the same ends as Labor but by different means.

It is precisely those ends—altruism, collectivism, statism—that ought to be rejected, but if neither party chooses to do it, the logic of events created by their common basic principles will keep dragging them both further and further to the Left. If and when the conservatives are kicked out of the game altogether, the same conflict will continue between the progressives and the avowed socialists, and between the socialists and The Greens, and The Greens will continue the conflict with the socialists and the communists. When the communists win, the ultimate goal of altruism will be achieved: universal destruction.

There is no way to stop or change that process except at the root: by a change of basic principles. The spread of evil is a symptom of a vacuum. Whenever evil wins, it is only by default: by the moral failure of those who favour the fact that there can be no compromise on basic principles. In any compromise between food and poison, it is only death that can win. In any compromise between good and evil, it is only evil that can profit. Run, run from any man who splashes the ideology of pragmatism or compromise: it is the leper bell of approaching despotism. [*Time expired.*]

**Question—That this House do now adjourn—put and resolved in the affirmative.**

**Motion agreed to.**

**The House adjourned at 6.48 p.m. until Wednesday 10 September at 11.00 a.m.**

---