

**HON COLIN BARNETT, AC  
MARGARET AMANDA McILROY, OAM**

*Statement*

**HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan)** [5.20 pm]: Noting other colleagues who wish to make contributions I reassure members that my contribution will be a brief one—short and sweet.

I want to use this occasion to recognise the substantial contributions made to the community of Western Australia by two individuals I am privileged to know. These two individuals have, over time, been colleagues of mine and benefit has absolutely accrued to me through that teamwork and shared enterprise. I have learnt a lot from both of the individuals I am about to mention.

The first is the twenty-ninth Premier of the state of Western Australia, Hon Colin Barnett, AC. He was recognised for the eminent service he provided to the people and state of Western Australia. I was particularly taken by a quote attributed to Hon Colin Barnett in *The West Australian* that I think encapsulated his style of leadership. He stated —

“I’ve always been most interested in achieving results, not for me, but for the State and its people. So I didn’t play a lot of political games.”

I was an adviser to Hon Colin Barnett in two senses: once very briefly in opposition, and then for a slightly more extended time in his office when he was Premier, and I can absolutely attest to his great vision, integrity and sincerity. I benefited immensely from the time it was my privilege to work for him, so I think it is in keeping with some of the sentiments expressed earlier today by members of this chamber, including my colleague Hon Dr Steve Thomas, in relation to Hon Mark McGowan, that we acknowledge significant political leadership, if only for the toll it takes on individuals, and that we understand and appreciate that although these individuals have many and varied critics, their capacity to sustain high levels of service for extended periods should not be taken for granted. It is particularly pleasing that the contribution made by Hon Colin Barnett to this state and this country was recognised in this most formal national sense.

I said that there were two colleagues that I wished to mention. The other one is someone very dear to my heart, and her name is Margaret Amanda McIlroy; she goes by “Amanda”. She was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to the community through sport, particularly in Kingsley, the suburb where she has resided and in which has been a very strong and significant presence for an enormous length of time. Amanda has the great misfortune of being my electorate officer. It would embarrass her for me to acknowledge her in this way, but I think she is an individual that these honours are designed to recognise. She is the heart and soul of her community. Her service to the community, her big-heartedness, extends far beyond sport, far beyond the Kingsley footy club, and far beyond just about any limitation. She has been the mainstay and anchor of my office for some time, and I hope to keep her. I also wish to put on record that I am the least qualified and acknowledged member of my office, at least in an official way! I am the most junior ranking person now. I take a subordinate position to Amanda McIlroy, OAM, JP, and so it should be.