

Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Mark McGowan; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Brendon Grylls; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Frank Alban; Mr Roger Cook; Dr Kim Hames; Mr David Templeman; Mr Terry Redman; Mr John Quigley; Mr Troy Buswell; Mr Terry Waldron; Mr John Bowler; Mr Fran Logan; Mr John Hyde; Mr Tony Simpson; Mr John Kobelke; Mr Tony O’Gorman; Mr Martin Whitely; Mr Andrew Waddell; Mr Peter Watson; Mr Mick Murray

JAYE AMBER RADISICH

Condolence Motion

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [2.01 pm] — without notice: I move —

That this house records its sincere regret at the death of Jaye Amber Radisich and tenders its deep sympathy to her family.

The passing of Jaye Radisich on 17 March 2012 represents a significant loss to the Western Australian community. Despite Jaye’s long and courageous battle with illness, news of her death was still shocking and disconcerting to us all, as it cut short a life that featured many achievements, but had enormous potential for many more achievements.

Jaye Radisich was the youngest woman ever elected to either house of the Western Australian Parliament when, aged just 24 years, she won the seat of Swan Hills in 2001. Her youth provided an early point of distinction from other parliamentarians. The following year she was diagnosed with Wilms’ tumour, which is a rare form of kidney cancer. So began an enduring battle with the disease, which Jaye tackled with determination and bravery, and largely in the public eye. However, there was so much more to Jaye Radisich than her youth and her illness. She was a passionate representative of the Swan Hills electorate, boasted an impressive history of community service, and possessed a bright and determined personality that left a mark on those who encountered her.

Jaye Radisich was born in Middle Swan on 29 March 1976. Her family was of Croatian descent and strived to make the most of opportunities, providing a solid foundation for their children. How successful they proved to be: later generations of Radisiches have made noteworthy contributions, including in the Western Australian public sector, and Jaye became the most prominent of them all. She attended Mount Lawley Senior High School before commencing degrees in arts and law at the University of Western Australia.

Jaye, rightly, was proud of her work experience before becoming a member of the Legislative Assembly. Despite her youth, she boasted an extensive history in retail and small business, and lessons learned in those roles undoubtedly shaped her approach as a member of Parliament. Her interest in community and politics emerged well before her arrival in Parliament. At just 12 years of age, she had already received a citizenship award from the City of Stirling. Later, she was involved with the Australian Republican Movement, including as an executive member in 1999. She was a member of the Australian Services Union and the Australian Institute of International Affairs. Jaye was active in student politics at the University of Western Australia.

In 2001, her law studies were not yet completed when she decided to nominate for the seat of Swan Hills at the forthcoming state election. Running against a sitting government minister in what was considered a fairly safe Liberal seat, Jaye may have thought her law studies would continue without distraction. As it turned out, she achieved a swing of 11.7 per cent. Her surprising success was anticipated by few and, with her full-time studies suddenly postponed, she became the youngest woman elected to the Western Australian Parliament. Despite an unfavourable redistribution, Jaye repeated her success at the 2005 election. She was a dedicated local member for Swan Hills and advocated tirelessly on behalf of communities in the Swan Valley, Ellenbrook, Sawyers Valley and Mundaring, among others.

Jaye performed a number of roles as a parliamentarian. She was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Energy; Resources; Industry and Enterprise prior to her departure from politics. Jaye also served as Chair of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee from 2005 to 2007 and as a member of various other committees such as the Public Accounts Committee, the Joint Standing Committee on the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. At times Jaye was outspoken and was prepared to be critical of the then government’s approach on issues such as food labelling. It is well known that she pursued endorsement for a more secure electorate prior to the 2008 election, and when that did not transpire, Jaye announced her exit from state Parliament. So, at the still relatively tender age of 32, the next chapter of Jaye’s life began.

She moved to New South Wales and was the chief executive officer of the Council of Small Business Australia from 2009 to 2010. In interviews she indicated that she still held ambitions to enter federal politics at some stage. In normal circumstances, time would have been on her side and a return to the political arena would not have been surprising. Jaye, however, was rarely afforded the luxury of normal circumstances. After her initial diagnosis with cancer in 2002, she had surgery to remove a kidney and chemotherapy. She was clear of the disease for many years before a tumour was discovered in her other kidney. The manner in which Jaye responded to news that available treatment in Australia could only prolong her life, not cure her illness,

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illustrates the strength of her character. She confronted her situation by not only boldly deciding to visit China in search of alternative treatment, but also making public her experience via a blog. Part of her motivation was to improve information about less conventional treatments so others might make more informed choices. In typical form, Jaye’s introduction to the blog included an undertaking to “tell it how it is and keep it real”.

It is remarkable that in the space of 12 months we have lost not only Jaye Radisich, but also her colleague and friend John D’Orazio, with whom she shared a parliamentary office for most of her time here.

Jaye Radisich, the youngest woman ever elected to the Western Australian Parliament, represented her community with passion and commitment. The affection with which she was held is evident in the expressions of grief from her friends and supporters during the last week or so. She will be missed by them no doubt, just as she will be missed by many members sitting in the chamber today. On behalf of all Liberal members and, indeed, all members of Parliament and the people in the state of Western Australia, I extend my sincere condolences to Jaye’s partner, Brad Maguire, and the Radisich family, Jaye’s parents, Jeff and Dorothy, and her brothers, Glenn and Ian. Her family are here today in the Speaker’s gallery. Jaye was a popular person in this Parliament—popular on all sides of politics. She will be sadly missed by us all.

MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition) [2.08 pm]: Today we recognise and commemorate the passing of a remarkable person, a brave person, an intelligent person, and a person who brought joy and pride to her family and friends in a life all too short. True, it is a sad time, but it is also a time to applaud the achievements and qualities of Jaye Radisich because Jaye had so many achievements and so many qualities that touched so many people on both sides of the political divide. In fact, it is a great credit to Jaye that she achieved so much in her 35 years.

Jaye was bright, and this was obviously evident at a very early age, because I am told that Jaye could already read when she started at Herne Hill preprimary. Jaye attended Herne Hill Primary School and Mount Lawley Primary School before finishing her primary school education at Coolbinia Primary School. In her final year at primary school, she was a prefect and was awarded the citizenship award by the federal member for Perth, Stephen Smith. During her primary school years, Jaye took up playing the flute and when she moved on to Mount Lawley Senior High School, it was not a surprise to her family and friends when she joined the school band. In Jaye’s final year of high school in 1993, she was again elected a prefect and was named belle of the ball at her school’s year 12 ball. After high school, Jaye started studying for a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Western Australia, double-majoring in politics and Asian studies. Jaye supported herself through university, working in a variety of retail jobs. Jaye was elected to state Parliament in 2001. At 24 years of age, she was the youngest woman elected to this place—a milestone that remains intact today. It is very interesting to note that at the time of this immense achievement Jaye was a student and working at Priceline. Her student car was a beaten-up old Gemini, which she used to campaign through the geographically spread-out electorate of Swan Hills. That is determination.

Jaye winning the seat of Swan Hills was integral in helping Geoff Gallop being elected the new Premier of Western Australia. After being elected, Jaye did not waste time in making an impact. She fought hard for her constituents of Swan Hills. She was proud of her constituency and her electorate, which was evident every time she fought for a local issue. Be it schools, health care or police stations, Jaye argued with a passion and a commitment that her electors were proud of and they warmed to it; so much so that they re-elected Jaye to Parliament in 2005. Jaye was also a champion of equal pay for equal work, and of closing the gender pay gap. It was something she highlighted in her first speech to this Parliament, in which she said —

I hope this is one inequity that can be redressed in this new millennium.

I encourage employers to continue giving people a chance.

In true Jaye style, she went on to make this somewhat poignant point —

On the flip side, I encourage people looking for work to never give up. In a way, it is like embracing the spirit of the Anzacs, to continue to strive for excellence even in the face of adversity. This is easier said than done; however, no-one should ever give up hope—opportunity does knock!

Jaye had a great capacity for work. While in Parliament she also completed her Bachelor of Arts and commenced and was awarded her Bachelor of Laws. She also took the opportunity of postgraduate studies at Harvard University. In her first speech, Jaye also expressed her admiration and awe for small business operators. It was no surprise that when Jaye left Parliament she joined the Council of Small Business Australia as its chief executive officer. She became a strong and effective advocate.

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Jaye’s incredible life and vitality was tragically cut short, but her courage through her battle with cancer was an inspiration. It was typical of her attitude and approach. She never, ever gave up. Jaye died far too young, but she loved her colleagues, her friends, her acquaintances, her family and her partner, and they loved her in return. I take this opportunity to acknowledge Jaye’s family in the Speaker’s gallery today. It is without doubt the worst fear of any parent to lose a child. Can I say to her parents, siblings and fiancé here today that everyone in this house feels the utmost sympathy for you at this extremely difficult time. You have all carried yourselves with dignity, grace and bravery despite very obvious pain during this time. Everyone who attended Jaye’s funeral on Saturday saw that on display.

In closing, I leave you with one last quote from Jaye’s own words in her first speech —

I want young people to feel inspired, rather than apathetic, when learning about their potential to improve and change our society.

Jaye, when it comes to inspiration, you certainly fulfilled your role.

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland) [2.14 pm]: Today I rise to pay tribute to my late colleague and dear friend, Jaye Radisich. For more than 10 years, probably closer to 12, Jaye was my colleague and friend, an associate in adversity and an ally in success. Today, the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have spoken about some of Jaye’s achievements in political life. Many people will just see Jaye as the youngest woman ever elected to the Legislative Assembly—indeed one of the youngest people ever elected to the Legislative Assembly—but I want to reflect on her friendship. Before I do that, I would also like to note that Jaye’s partner, Brad, and her parents received today or yesterday by courier from Assembly member Henry T. Perea, on behalf of the California State Assembly, a California Legislature memorial certificate that reads —

In Memoriam
Honoring the Life of
Jaye Amber Radisich
In Whose Memory We Pay Tribute and Reverence
on this date
March 17 2012
On Behalf of The California State Assembly
May I Express Our Deepest Sympathy

I think something like that just indicates how far and wide Jaye’s influence spread. When I think of Jaye, I think of someone who was remarkable, vivacious, amazing, fun, the life of the party, intelligent, hardworking and a great friend. All of that is true and a whole lot more. Jaye’s enthusiasm for life was really contagious. When I met Jaye some 12 years ago, I knew that I had met someone truly amazing. To say that Jaye was great company, as I think many members present would, would certainly be an understatement; she was the best of company. My first impression of Jaye was of someone who was articulate, educated and confident, and who was an exceptionally well presented young woman who had a great zeal for life and a very engaging personality. This was, in my view, someone who was going places.

It was with those thoughts in mind, together with her Croatian surname and heritage, that I first suggested to her that she contemplate running for the seat of Swan Hills in the February 2001 state election. Swan Hills required a 9.7 per cent swing, and it certainly was not on the Labor Party’s list of target seats; but before Jaye committed to running, she told me that she had some questions for me to answer. She wanted to know whether Hon Nick Griffiths and I, who had spoken to her, wanted her to run just so we could have a name on the ballot paper, or if we wanted her to run because we thought she could win. My answer was that, unlike most other people, I believed that the seat could be won by the Labor Party; it simply required a large statewide swing to Labor in combination with the benefits of recent urban infill, preferences flowing her way and a great candidate. Those wide brown eyes looked searchingly back at me to judge whether I was telling her the truth. I added, “Well, it’s not a likely win, but it’s a possible win. You can do the minimum or you can do the maximum; I’ll be grateful either way”. But Jaye would run only on one condition: that she was running to win.

The rest, as they say, is history; it was game on and there were no half measures. Jaye ran to win, and win she did, surpassing the required 9.7 per cent with an amazing 11.7 per cent swing. It was a great campaign that took a lot of energy and a lot of hard work. It was also a lot of fun. Her enthusiasm was infectious, and a small army of family and friends were commandeered into the campaign. When Jaye asked people to help, there was simply no way that they could say no.

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We had a combined party that election night in Midland, where we watched the results as they were posted on TV, and our own scrutineers phoned in really great results. Whilst the rest of the state was focused on the Gallop government win, my enduring memory of that night will be of a vivacious young woman in a red dress, on whom the realisation was slowly dawning that she had won a seat in Parliament. She grabbed me and took me outside and said, “Look, I may have had one or two drinks,”—and she had!—“but people in there are saying that I’ve won, and I need you to tell me honestly: have I really?” The truth of the matter was that she had won by more than 1 000 votes; there was never going to be a recount.

I tell that story because it says so much about Jaye: her capacity, her enthusiasm and commitment. She swept people up and she took them along for the ride, and it was a great ride. In 2005, she took people along for the same ride yet again. In that election, Jaye gained a further 3.5 per cent swing. That was no mean feat. I will say this for the record: I think that was probably the most copybook campaign I have ever seen. Jaye engaged not just with local people, Labor members and Labor supporters, but also with the whole community. My recollection is that there were up to 30 people in the room when Jaye called a campaign meeting, and I think half the people in the room had no particular connection with the Labor Party at all. But they were community people, they could see the results that Jaye was getting for her community, they liked her enthusiasm, they liked her, and they knew she could deliver results for them.

Life with Jaye was never dull; there were no half-measures. Whilst we did a lot of hard work in our combined electorates, there were many places on the periphery where we campaigned together. We campaigned for the upgrade of Middle Swan Road. We campaigned for various schools. Jaye got amazing new facilities into the electorate of Swan Hills. Prior to Jaye’s arrival, there was no police station in Ellenbrook; there was no fire station in Ellenbrook; and there was no high school in Ellenbrook. These were the kinds of facilities that she campaigned for and got. In terms of schools, although I cannot name the whole list of schools that Jaye assisted, I have seen from the notices and tributes in the paper that many schools are certainly grateful for the support.

One school that I will reflect on just by way of example is Darlington Primary School. Darlington is an area that has been in other electorates. I think in 2001 it was wholly within the electorate of Swan Hills. By 2005 it was split in half between Midland and Swan Hills. I think I inherited the half that had the primary school in it. We had about a \$2 million extension to that school. When we had the ceremony to open the extension, a school assembly was called. So much was the affection for Jaye that in the school play put on to commemorate the occasion, which was about the history of how the school got its extension, one of the students was chosen to portray Jaye. The person portraying Jaye marched up on the stage with the high heels, the power jacket, the glasses and the walk! She had Jaye down to an absolute tee! A very talented and able young woman took that role and portrayed Jaye very formidably in that play. Again, I say that just because of the way the community and the children engaged with Jaye. In fact, when Jaye won the election, my eldest daughter was only 11 years old and she is now 23. Jaye was such a role model to so many people that when my daughter Elizabeth was compiling the list for who she wanted to invite to her twelfth birthday party, Jaye made the list! The rest were all 12-year-olds but she seemed to think that, because Jaye was so cool, it was appropriate to invite someone who was by then 27 years of age.

We had some fun times in the electorate, too. It was not all hard work. There were plenty of times when we had some great lunches and lazy afternoons in the Swan Valley. There were some great days at Lilac Hill watching the cricket, at Mulberry Farm, at Caversham House and at assorted venues throughout the Swan Valley. Jaye was always the life of the party. When some event such as Spring in the Valley was coming up, there would be ceremonial grape crushing. There was a competition in more than one year, but I remember one occasion very vividly when about four halved wine barrels were filled with grapes. The organisers wanted pairs—two people—opposite each other arm-in-arm to jump into the barrels and stomp the grapes. Jaye took that challenge on with enthusiasm and ended up, as I recall, with an awful lot of purple grape juice up her legs! But I declined and decided I would just let Jaye be the Labor entry.

People were drawn to Jaye because of her enthusiasm, her focus, her belief in herself and her capacity to achieve things for her community. She also took that same strength of character into her fight with cancer. It was a fight she attacked with the vigour of her youth and the same determination she brought to politics. People in this chamber will remember how she showed amazing courage from the start when she dealt with the chemotherapy. Jaye ditched the wig; it was not real and it was not Jaye. She came in here, bald and honest, and that is how she appeared for many photographs—no cover-up for Jaye. As the Premier mentioned, Jaye’s blog on her China treatment was very real too—almost too real and too heart wrenching for many people to follow. But she wanted others in a similar situation to hers to learn from her experience—to learn from what she had been through.

In her maiden speech in 2001 Jaye said —

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I am humbled by the position and privilege that I now hold and will be an adamant and perhaps on occasion loud voice in this place. I am here to work hard and I will do my best to keep it real.

I found out on the weekend—although when I thought back I think Jaye had alluded to it before—that the “keep it real” idea was a suggestion from her youngest brother, Ian. When Jaye was compiling that speech she asked Ian, “What do you think I should put in this speech?” Ian said, “I think you should put in there ‘keep it real’”, and she did. I think, as we all know, Jaye was more than an occasional loud voice. She was often a very loud voice.

Just before I conclude I did bring in this T-shirt memento that I think the member for Eyre compiled for us on one occasion after we had had a special kind of dress-up party at one of our retreats when I think the member for Girrawheen, the then member for Swan Hills, Jaye, and I were supposed to be dressed up as if we were on some kind of cruise liner or something. Some people have often made jokes about our “grouping the new right”. It seems that the member for Kalgoorlie decided to call us the “Righteous Sisters”, with our photo on the front of the T-shirt and the meaning of righteous on the back, which reads —

Righteous ... a. (Of person, life, action) morally right, just, upright, virtuous, law abiding; ...

That is one example of many great times we had with Jaye and I have half a thought that she was probably trying to give me the advice to wear the shirt to Parliament today. Jaye often dared me to do things, but I did not do all of them, which is just as well.

I want to pass my sincere condolences to all of her family; to her partner, Brad, who has been simply an amazing support for Jaye over the past couple of years; her parents, Jeff and Dorothy; her brothers, Glenn and Ian; her grandparents; and all her other family. I want to say also how much not just I, Greg and our girls will miss her but Lyn, John and Steve from my office certainly will too, as will many people throughout the Swan Valley. Each of us will certainly cherish the memory of a truly loved, admired and great person in Jaye.

Mr B.J. GRYLLES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the National Party) [2.29 pm]: On behalf of the Parliamentary National Party I too rise to support the condolence motion before the Parliament for a life taken too soon. Although Jaye had a short life, it was a life long on achievement and, as the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition outlined, Jaye made an outstanding contribution to public life. Jaye and I were the only MPs in our 20s in the class of 2001. We regularly talked about being a little different from other members of Parliament and I enjoyed that friendship. She had a wonderful grasp of issues and, as her close friend the member for Midland outlined, she was a very smart and savvy politician. She was very close to her local community. People who wish to follow good politicians would do well to take a look at the way Jaye won the election as a young person and did well at the local level to do better at the election that followed.

I would like to recognise her achievement in being the youngest woman ever elected to the Western Australian Parliament, and also, more importantly, once elected, her valuable contribution to Parliament. Jaye was much more than just a young person elected to Parliament. She certainly made sure that her lack of years did not mean that she had a lack of standing in the chamber when she was up against some of the seasoned people who came here before her.

For me, for all of those achievements in public life, nothing is more important than the love of family and friends. It was very clear to me and everyone who went to her funeral on Saturday that her greatest achievement clearly was the love of her friends and family. It was a very special service. I acknowledge that everyone did a fantastic job in celebrating Jaye’s life. Given the lifestyle that we all as members of Parliament lead, maybe we should reflect on this: on the day when your friends wish you their goodbyes, the love of family and friends is so very, very important. Maybe one lesson we as members of Parliament can take from Jaye was her contribution to Parliament, but also the lesson of her very strong love of family and her very strong friendships. On behalf of the parliamentary Nationals, I support the condolence motion and pay our respects to her family. Jaye Radisich, rest in peace.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen) [2.31 pm]: Even before Jaye was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in 2002, she was one of those uncommon individuals who understood that time was of the essence. Passing just days before her thirty-sixth birthday, Jaye achieved much more professionally and personally than many achieve in twice that time.

As we have already heard, when she was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly on 10 February 2001 as the member for Swan Hills, she was 24 years, 10 months and 11 days old. While Jaye never shied away from the limelight, being elected at such an early age meant that her mid-20s and early 30s were less than typical. She found herself amongst a cohort of grey-suited, middle-aged and predominately male

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parliamentarians. That meant that even if she was not the person she was, she was always going to be noticed. It also meant that she did not have the level of privacy most of us had at that age, to enjoy life, to get our bearings and to learn some valuable lessons—often the hard way. This did not faze Jaye, but in hindsight I reflect on how much more challenging her role was as a new member because of that. However, in typical Jaye fashion, she made a virtue out of this situation. She became a role model for many young political activists and formed close friendships with a number of them. It also meant Jaye brought a fresh approach to Parliament, often challenging the notion that things had to be done a certain way because that is the way they were always done.

The other noteworthy aspect of those early years, as we have already heard, was her completion of her law degree during her first year as a member in a large marginal seat on the urban fringe. Jaye already had a Bachelor of Arts degree. She was someone who valued education and in fact also undertook studies at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard in 2006. This is just one example of Jaye’s exceptional work ethic.

Jaye was a charismatic, diligent, effective and enthusiastic local member. She had a real passion for the Swan Valley and was its greatest advocate. Her seat covered an area of 1 508 square kilometres. She achieved much for her electorate, as we have already heard. However, she was most proud of the Ellenbrook Secondary College. Every time she took someone from interstate or overseas to her electorate and through Ellenbrook, as she drove past the college she would say without fail, “That’s my school.” The visitor would ask, “Did they name it after you?” She would reply, “No, I just got it built.”

Another achievement that Jaye was very proud of was a general practitioner service. Up until she was elected, there was no GP in the Ellenbrook area. She placed a nine-word advertisement for free in the Australian Medical Association journal and managed to attract Dr Sam Bada, who travelled from Queensland to take up the position as the first GP in Ellenbrook. That characterises the way Jaye operated: she thought laterally, and left no stone unturned.

Jaye’s work ethic was also evident in her efforts on several parliamentary committees, and we have heard about some of her background in this regard today already. She spent time as chairperson of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee and in that role in 2006 she tabled a report on the production and marketing of foodstuffs. She was particularly proud and passionate about the work she did on that committee. The report was prescient in some respects, as it examined the market dominance of the major retail chains and also analysed issues relating to the health and safety of our food, labelling requirements and the production and marketing of foodstuffs. The committee recommended a new way forward in support of consumer information about the food we eat that is grown, farmed or fished in WA by way of a voluntary state of origin certification and marketing program. I often think of Jaye when shopping for green groceries and seeing a country of origin, or in some cases a place of origin, now prominently displayed.

Jaye’s parliamentary service culminated in her appointment as a Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Energy; Resources; Industry and Enterprise in April 2007. This was a role that she enjoyed immensely, especially keeping the bureaucrats on their toes!

Jaye served on a range of party entities and was on the administrative committee and was treasurer of the party for three years, ending in 2008. Jaye was also active in Country Labor and travelled with her colleagues around the state. Former member for Geraldton Shane Hill reminded me of some of their exploits, which he fondly recalled at Jaye’s funeral last weekend. But as they say in the classics, “What happens on a trip stays on a trip”!

Jaye was someone who enjoyed travel and understood we had much to learn from other cultures. She was selected as a delegate on two trips with the Australian Political Exchange Council, first to Vietnam in 2002 and then to the United States of America in 2007. As always, Jaye formed good friendships on those and other travels and kept in touch with many.

After leaving Parliament in 2008, Jaye spent 15 months as the CEO of the Council of Small Business Australia and in that time used her knowledge of government to push for greater support of small business. Although her stay at COSBOA was short, Jaye left her mark on the organisation. Her achievements included boosting the organisation’s revenue twelvefold, making an unprecedented number of oral and written submissions to government and greatly enhancing the organisation’s profile. Federal Minister for Small Business Brendan O’Connor paid tribute to Jaye last week describing her as —

... a hardworking advocate for small business and a passionate Labor figure in WA.

He went on to say —

Ms Radisich had a solid track record of working with the private sector while in her role with COSBOA. For example, she was instrumental in forming a partnership between COSBOA, Telstra and

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the Federal Government to deliver information to small businesses about new, modernised awards when the Fair Work Act was introduced.

Above all, Jaye was someone with many friends, and I do not mean friends in the glib and superficial social media sense, although that was something that came to be second nature to her. Neither were they networking contacts, at which she was also very skilled; they were real and genuine mates who liked and respected her. She kept in touch with many both here, interstate and overseas. With all that was occupying her time, she made this a priority.

I express my condolences to Jaye’s family, her father, Jeff; mother, Dorothy; brothers Ian and Glenn; and to her extended family. You should all be so proud of her. I hope all our words today provide some comfort, solace and fond memories. My heartfelt sympathy goes to Jaye’s fiancé, Brad Maguire. Jaye and Brad were shortly to celebrate their 1 000-day anniversary. Brad, your devotion and constancy to Jaye was clear to all; you need to know that it was unconditionally reciprocated. No words of comfort will be adequate to fill the void of separation and the enormous grief and anguish you are experiencing. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Jaye was a friend of mine and I will miss her lively presence. Although there were odd occasions when she made me feel like an eccentric maiden aunt, there were many more when she gave me wise counsel, words of support, make-up advice or shopping tips, or when we shared a glass of wine—Swan Valley, of course—or a joke or some political intrigue. In a profession in which it is frequently said, “If you want a friend, get a dog”, Jaye was reliable, understanding and irritatingly frank, which are all rare commodities in our line of work.

In closing, I reflect on the great irony that someone who loved and embraced life so wholeheartedly should have it cut short.

MR F.A. ALBAN (Swan Hills) [2.41 pm]: As the current member for Swan Hills, I occupy the electoral office that Jaye set up and from which she worked. I acknowledge some of her contributions to the electorate of Swan Hills.

In 2007, years 1 to 10 of the Ellenbrook Secondary College were opened. Jaye was instrumental in recognising the need for a senior high school in this area, and many of the parents of these children will recall the early meetings she organised to get discussion on the issue started. We recently completed the senior wing—years 11 and 12—at that school, and it is quite a spectacular state-of-the-art facility. It was officially opened last November while the school also celebrated its first graduating class of year 12 students. The same can be said for the redevelopment of Bullsbrook District High School. Jaye identified that this was a growing area and started work on getting this project underway. I visited that school yesterday, and she would be very proud to see what is happening there now.

Jaye was also instrumental in getting a community sporting and recreation facilities fund grant that saw the development of a number of community facilities in Ellenbrook. These include the water playground, the BMX track in the town centre and the establishment of the Valley Bowls Club, where new clubrooms have recently been completed. As mentioned, one of Jaye’s greatest legacies and a testament to her commitment to the Swan Hills community was her search for a doctor for Ellenbrook. When the only consortium of doctors in Ellenbrook left because it was not financially viable, Jaye placed advertisements nationally to look for a doctor for a thriving village of 5 000 residents. Dr Sam Bada, a doctor for the RAAF, saw the ad; this was the start of the establishment of the Ellenbrook Medical Centre and a lifelong friendship between Jaye and Dr Bada.

Jaye was loved by her constituents in Swan Hills; they found her passionate about the people and area she represented. As Mrs Terri Phillips, a long-time resident of Ellenbrook, said —

Jaye was dearly loved and well respected in her community. We loved that she was young and energetic and full of ideas. She will be very sadly missed.

Mrs Bernadette Jones, principal of Bullsbrook District High School, also said —

As a newly appointed principal to Bullsbrook school, I had nothing but complete support from Jaye. Jaye was always so approachable and so accessible to students, staff and community. She brought to her role as a parliamentary representative such personality, intelligence and practicality. She was accessible to us all and sincere in all her contact with us.

When Jaye retired from politics in 2008 after deciding not to re-contest the seat of Swan Hills, a reflection of the affection the residents had for her was demonstrated in a farewell gift. They presented her with a diamond—a symbol of what they thought of her—which she later mounted into a pendant. Some of you may have seen that. How many politicians here can claim to have received a gift such as hers from their electorates?

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On behalf of the Swan Hills electorate, I extend my condolences to her partner and family. She will be remembered for her passion, commitment and success. Jaye, from one member for Swan Hills to another, God bless and may you rest in peace.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [2.45 pm]: I rise to make some brief comments to mark Jaye’s sad passing. I first met Jaye in 1999 or 2000 when I was president of the WA branch of the Australian Labor Party. It was an interesting time in the branch. It was a period of great optimism and hope, and there was a genuine sense that people would have the opportunity to implement their ideas.

Jaye was part of a young group of activists in the party at that time who were all quite talented, articulate and, should I say, in a hurry. This group was rather unfairly called “The Millennium Bugs” and its members were a curious coalition within the party of young reformist members who signalled a new generation of thinking in the party. They were all passionate and they were all professionals, and Jaye was certainly a leader amongst them. She stood apart from the others in that she had a genuine confidence about life and how to go about achieving the goals of life. I can remember times when I spoke to her that I was almost intimidated by that sense of confidence and ambition. As we know, in her political career, this was a confidence and ambition that she rightly deserved to have.

Jaye’s time in politics speaks for itself. As the youngest woman elected to this Parliament, she demonstrated that she was an MP of substance and she was not only elected in 2001 but also returned in 2005. Holding a marginal seat is difficult at the best of times but to do so managing a serious illness marked a courage that would stand as a hallmark of Jaye’s strength of character. It is extraordinary that she had the same level of energy and the same determination while struggling with such a debilitating illness as if she were running for that seat for the very first time.

I did not spend a great deal of time with Jaye as a member of Parliament, but I met with her on a number of occasions when she was head of the Council of Small Business Australia. What struck me is that her transition to the private sector seemed almost seamless, almost effortless. She was a professional and she was able to articulate with a great deal of care and confidence the interests of the new group she was representing. Certainly, colleagues I have worked with in the eastern states were all impressed with her professionalism. They heard of this young MP moving across to the eastern states to carry out this role and they were all impressed with the way that she undertook that role.

There is perhaps nothing sadder than a funeral for a friend who is taken from us at an early age. Her funeral last weekend was a big funeral, as we would expect, and it was desperately sad to see her young friends and relatives struggle to deal with their grief and sense of loss. I have been to too many funerals of young people at Fremantle and they are always desperately sad occasions. The words spoken by my good friend Daniel Smith I thought really reflected not only that sense of loss but also that great sense of love. What I thought was particularly warming was that so many members of Parliament from both sides of Parliament and from all levels of government were at that funeral. That speaks volumes about the respect and love with which Jaye was held.

I want to express my deepest sympathy to Brad and to Jaye’s family and friends. Jaye’s character was in some respects too large for the short life she was given. She will be sadly missed by you and she will be sadly missed by all of us. My deepest condolences and sympathies.

DR K.D. HAMES (Dawesville — Minister for Health) [2.49 pm]: I just want to make a short contribution. I have to say that I did not get to know Jaye until 2005, because she came into Parliament in 2001 at the same time that I went out; I lost my seat as part of that swing against the government. I just want to reflect briefly on what a massive effort it was for Jaye to win that seat. I had something like a five or six per cent swing against me, and I know other members of government and some ministers had greater percentages. The member for that area, June van de Klashorst, was one of our best members of Parliament—female; she was very active in the community, and she worked very hard and was well respected. Although during her time as a minister she could not spend a lot of time in that electorate, in no way did we remotely expect that she could possibly lose that seat, yet she did and to a better person in terms of the ability to campaign and the ability to relate to that community. To get such a massive swing in that electorate was somewhat remarkable.

I got to know Jaye more when I was re-elected to Parliament in 2005. I had that association with Jaye largely through John D’Orazio. John was a very good friend of mine and I know that he was a very good friend of Jaye’s. He was very proud and supportive of her. The Labor Party lost two very good members when those two were not able to continue in this Parliament for various reasons. I wish they had been able to stay here and

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continue as members of Parliament through their illnesses as it would have been great for the members of Parliament to give them that continued support.

Jaye was fun to be around. She was a fantastic person to know. To her family, I would like to pass on my condolences, particularly those from John D’Orazio, who obviously cannot be here but would have loved her family to know how he felt.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [2.51 pm]: For those of us who were elected to this place in February 2001, it was a momentous time in our lives. The class of 2001, as we called ourselves, was a diverse lot. Jaye Radisich was an active and passionate member of the Labor government and this Parliament during the two terms she served. As has already been mentioned, to win a seat that was traditionally strong Liberal and to earn the respect and trust of her electors in the seat of Swan Hills was remarkable. Her commitment and dedication to the people of that electorate was again rewarded in 2005 with her strong win at that election.

The early years of the Gallop government were exciting. In this Parliament they were quite often laborious because all of us who were part of the early years of that government remember the late sittings that we had. I think that Jaye would admonish the current Leader of the House for the very, very lazy hours that we spend in this place. In those early years of 2001 in the first term of the Gallop government we spent many a late night sitting into the early hours of the morning, particularly when we passed the industrial relations bills and the gay and lesbian legislation. Jaye was always the centre of fun during those times. She was always in the middle of any gathering in the strangers’ bar or the members’ lounge. She would always be having fun and she would always be an integral part of the team as we waited for the bells to ring, quite often every five minutes, and we wandered into this place to pass a particular clause.

Jaye would never shy away from a debate. She was always looking to take it up with the opposite side. She did that with great spirit. I always remember some great debates she had across the chamber with various members of the now government. She earned the respect of all those from all political persuasions who served in this place.

One of the things I remember about Jaye is that she loved to push the boundaries. As a young person, she could do that so well. I always remember her coming into this place dressed in a black leather number with silver studs. The current Premier was not overly impressed with her dress sense that day. I remember that very, very well.

Jaye was always happy and always keen to push the boundaries. In many respects, she did that with her contribution to this place and her contribution to the state of Western Australia. She did not shy away from representing the people that she was elected to this place to represent. She did that with magnificent courage and determination. As the current member for Swan Hills said, her electorate respected that. I am sure all of us saw many notices and acknowledgements of how much she was loved in the electorate that she represented.

I want very briefly to read two contributions from former members of this place who were part of the Labor team. The first is from the former member for Kingsley, Judy Hughes. Judy states that she appreciates being given —

... the opportunity to pay tribute to a friend and colleague, and thank the House for its consideration in this instance.

In her words, she says —

Jaye will be sadly missed by many but my sincere condolences go to her fiancé and her family, her close friends and colleagues in this House, past and present.

I was pleased to have been befriended by Jaye when I came into this place, her vitality and her boldness was encouraging and I appreciated how she always showed an interest in my endeavours often frequenting my fundraisers and functions.

My first encounter with Jaye was following her on a radio interview, she led the way, already she showed me her special kind of courage as she spoke from her hospital bed whilst fighting ... cancer, an amazing young woman.

She had already accomplished so much in her winning the election in 2001, an electorate hard to win and we all know how difficult a marginal electorate can be, she went on to win the hearts of her constituents and reclaimed her seat in 2005.

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Jaye was always honest and direct in her dealings and dedicated to her work, with a strong sense of what was right, she never backed down and at times found herself at odds with some.

Judy was disappointed that Jaye did not contest the following election in her electorate that she had worked so hard to hold, and continues, stating that Jaye —

... held her head high and did not retreat from her right to benefit from her hard work over the years, leading her to resign from her position. The Parliament of Western Australia was poorer in the loss of her presence as she was a talented young woman with a strong spirit.

Sadly, we now are here to say goodbye, she fought valiantly, as you would only expect from Jaye Radisich. I send my thoughts of peace and love to Jaye, a young woman who was an inspiration to me... so young, strong and courageous and full of life.

The member for Girrawheen mentioned the former member for Geraldton’s recollections of the famous Country Labor (WA) visits. Although Jaye was not, essentially, a member, she always made sure that she attached herself to any Country Labor function and visit, and was in many respects an honorary member. Shane Hill, the former member for Geraldton writes —

Jaye was part of the class for 2001 and I remember meeting her prior to this in Nick Griffith’s office. She was determined to change things for the better and was determined to become the member for Swan Hills. Jaye and I were not expected to win in 2001 and 2005.

I always thought of Jaye being a “little sister” to me who on occasions would give me a hard time but if she was ever in trouble she would contact me to see how she could get out of the pickle she found herself in. This happened on many Country Labor trips.

I will always remember Jaye being a ... determined young woman and never took a backward step. She enjoyed life to the fullest and was always keen for a new adventure. She was a good friend to me.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of everyone here I also join in expressing my condolences to her parents, Mr and Mrs Radisich, her brothers and extended family, and to Brad, her partner—and to Jaye’s nana, Mrs Ena Radisich, who lives in Mandurah and who I know loved Jaye so very much, we give our very sincere condolences on her very sad passing.

MR D.T. REDMAN (Blackwood–Stirling — Minister for Agriculture and Food) [2.58 pm]: I want to make a brief contribution about the little time that I had in this place with Jaye Radisich. I did not come with the class of 2001; I was in the class of 2005. There is a great bipartisan part of Parliament, namely the committee system, and, as has been mentioned by a number of speakers already, Jaye was the Chair of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee for that term. When in opposition, I recall that I and former member Hon Paul Omodei introduced a couple of motions during private members’ business, which reflected the issues of the day; that is, the dominance of the supermarket chains, food labelling and the health and safety of foodstuffs. As the member for Girrawheen highlighted, a parliamentary inquiry was triggered and Jaye’s committee conducted an inquiry into the production and marketing of foodstuffs. The outcome of that inquiry is a fantastic report to read. In my view, the whole inquiry was done very, very well. Jaye was the chair of the committee that did that inquiry, which was triggered by an opposition motion, and she pursued it with vigour. It was a great committee and we had a number of trips. It was one of those occasions when we got to see other members of Parliament in circumstances different from being across the chamber. We do not often get to interact closely with opposition members and understand how they tick, what they do and how they think, but we get to do that through the committee system. We did trips into regional Western Australia to interview people, and I think we went to the eastern states once. Throughout that, Jaye carried herself absolutely appropriately in her position as chair. I must add that it was a hell of a lot of fun, and despite her being nearly 15 years my junior, I learnt a hell of a lot from Jaye, not only by her contribution to this place as a politician, but also in making a difference out there. I think that committee put together some recommendations that indeed made a difference.

What the member for Girrawheen did not quite pursue in her comments was that one of the consequences of the recommendations of that committee was the Buy West Eat Best campaign. That was the government response to one of the recommendations around highlighting a strategy to identify Western Australian product on Western Australian supermarket shelves for consumers. Every time we see that badging out there—it is out there a lot, including, interestingly, in the major supermarket chains—we must remember that it stems from an opposition motion, supported by government through the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, led by Jaye, which made a recommendation. Jaye clearly played a role in driving that through to an outcome. When I see that badging it always reminds me of the great time we had.

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The member for Girrawheen also mentioned that Jaye was soft to a glass of red wine, and I know that it was a little dangerous to be around Jaye when the conduct of the day had been finished—of course, I diligently left and went back to my work! But it was a lot of fun to be a part of that committee with Jaye.

In summary, I would describe her as an absolutely dynamic lady. She was well across her brief, she was competent, and in my opinion she was ministerial material. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition would have loved to have had her as an option for his front bench; I think she would have made a fantastic contribution as a minister.

Also, could I please pass on my condolences to Jaye’s family. I do not know her family, but I know that her contribution in this place was significant. I crossed paths with her for a little time, which I really enjoyed, and since then I had caught up with her on a couple of occasions so I have a little understanding of what she recently went through. She will be sadly missed.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Mindarie) [3.03 pm]: I, too, entered this Parliament in 2001 with the late Jaye Radisich. I am standing to make a brief contribution of a more personal nature.

Of course, we all know that after her first diagnosis, in 2004 and into 2005 Jaye endured surgery, followed by chemotherapy, which was not easy for her; it was very tough indeed. But through her resilience she saw that through to regain her good health, strength, radiance and resolve. Not long after that, of course, I was diagnosed with cancer and given a bit of a grim prognosis initially, and some seven or nine months into a long haul of chemotherapy—members will recall that I used to travel to Melbourne—I gave up. I could not face the needle anymore and I could not face the chemo pump anymore; I was crook. I can remember conversations I had with Jaye out on the green Chesterfield lounges in your corridor, Mr Speaker, when she, sensing my weakening, if I can put it that way, encouraged me never to give up. She imbued me with a sense of resolve that no matter how bad it got or how crook I got, I had family and I owed it to them and everybody else to go the distance. So, I stand in this place this afternoon to offer a personal thanks to Jaye for the inspiration and the resolve that she imbued in me to keep on going. Over the next eight months—I did 17 months—she would check in with me from time to time to make sure that I was still seized of that determination to front up to the needle and the chemo pump. There were a number of people who supported me through that, but Jaye was certainly instrumental, through the conversations that we had on the green Chesterfield couch on a number of late evening sessions here, in doing that. I wish to mark this occasion with my heartfelt thanks to Jaye, and to extend my most sincere condolences to her parents, her extended family and to Brad on her sad passing.

MR T.R. BUSWELL (Vasse — Minister for Housing) [3.06 pm]: Jaye was born on 29 March 1976, and one day she worked out that I was born on 19 March 1966, and she took great pleasure in constantly reminding me that she was 10 years and 10 days younger than me. Many times she indicated her desire to not age as rapidly as I had, and nor has she; tragically, she has been denied that opportunity. I was just reflecting that she passed away 12 days short of her thirty-sixth birthday. I think that a person of lesser strength and character, given the challenges that confronted her, would not have made it to within 12 days of their thirty-sixth birthday.

I was reflecting on what people have been saying about Jaye this afternoon, and I agree that she was a person of immense dignity and tremendous loyalty, and with an incredibly rich love for her family. I have to join with the member for Mandurah, though, in questioning her fashion sense. That black outfit was, in my view—I am no fashion expert—a shocker! She claimed to like it, and that is well and good. One day I said, “Why do you wear it, Jaye?” She said, “Well, it says something about me. It says that I’m young—or younger than you; it says that I’m different; and it says that I know that in this place there are certain parameters that we are supposed to operate within and certain boxes that people like to put us in, and I don’t mind challenging those boxes and those parameters.” In many ways that black outfit was a reflection of Jaye’s character and the way Jaye lived her life.

Jaye probably had lots of reasons to be angry with life, not only because of the challenges that she faced from a health perspective, but also around the robust nature of the political process. I never once heard her express her anger about either of those publicly. She accepted the challenges before her and she dealt with them. After Jaye left this place and was contemplating applying for the job as the national chief executive officer of the Council of Small Business Australia, I was really pleased when she rang and asked if I would be a referee for her—she wanted to keep that quiet because she did not want too many of her former colleagues knowing! It was a great thing, and she really embraced that job. I think, for Jaye, it was a good thing. It was a good thing to get away from this place and it was a good thing to get away from Perth for a little while. I think she had some wonderful experiences in her life post-Parliament.

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I quickly want to reflect on her views on her family. I vividly recall her frustrations at the delay in the construction of her new house, which I think was somewhere out around Woodbridge, in and around Midland. She claimed publicly that her greatest disappointment in the delays in the construction of the house was that she was forced to live with her two brothers somewhere north of Perth. But do you know what? I actually think that she loved the noise and she loved the mess, and, more importantly, she loved being around her brothers. That was a reflection of Jaye. I am personally enriched by having had the opportunity to have known her and to have known her well. I would like to join with everybody else in extending my condolences to her mum and dad, to her brothers, and to her partner, Brad.

MR T.K. WALDRON (Wagin — Deputy Leader of the National Party) [3.09 pm]: My words of regret here today will be brief but very sincere. I want to endorse what other people have said in this house today. Jaye’s passing is very sad and she will be sorely missed. Jaye was always very bright. She was fantastic company and very enthusiastic; she was fun. I always remember her making a great fuss of my late father at the Freemasons Hotel in Geraldton, when Parliament sat in Geraldton. She made my dad’s day; she made his week; I think she made his year! She also was a great friend of my sister Delphine in the days when my sister was at the University of Western Australia Student Guild.

Like so many of us here today, Jaye was elected to this place in the class of 2001. Like many other members here, I have many fond and great memories of Jaye, and I am sure that we are all better people for having known her. My sincere sympathy to Jaye’s family, partner and friends.

MR J.J.M. BOWLER (Kalgoorlie) [3.11 pm]: I want to contribute to today’s condolence motion. I was in this place first of all as a Labor member of Parliament and I am now an Independent, but I recall fondly the Country Labor visits. As the member for Girrawheen said, we were essentially a fairly blokey, grey-haired, middle-aged, suit-wearing mob, and along came Jaye. I looked askance at her and said, “What are you doing here? You’re not country.” She said, “Well, Bowles, my electorate sort of goes into the bush a bit.” But she made a very good point. She said, “And, anyway, I’m here to represent not just my electorate, but the people of Western Australia, and I want to know what goes on around the rest of Western Australia.” She came on those visits and she added vim, vitality and vigour. She was a shining light amongst those grey suits. More importantly, though, because it was a similar age group and peer group, we ended up with a sort of attitude, and Jaye would cut across everything, bring us back to reality and put in that balance that would make us realise that there is more to life than just our middle-aged views whereby we think we know the answers for all the world.

Then, of course, there was her courage and dignity when she fought cancer for the first time. It was just after she got over that that we had a Country Labor visit to my electorate, and I had the honour to ask Jaye to officially open my new electorate office in Burt Street, Boulder. I recall fondly that night when she stood in Burt Street with the scissors and cut the ribbon to open my office. That is something I will remember fondly for the rest of my life.

My condolences go to her family and loved ones.

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn) [3.12 pm]: I also wish to acknowledge Jaye’s life and contribution to this house and, of course, to express my condolences to Jaye’s parents, siblings and partner, Brad Maguire. I came into Parliament in February 2001 along with Jaye, and was her colleague throughout the years that she was here. Many words have been used to describe Jaye, but, to me, she will always be remembered as vivacious. I will get the dictionary out to help me with that one. “Vivacious”, as per *The Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary*, means lively, sprightly and animated, and Jaye was clearly all those things; she really was a vivacious person. She did not bring just her youth to Parliament; she also brought that fun and liveliness that the word “vivacious” describes.

In her serious role as a parliamentarian, Jaye was a very good speaker. If we remember her contributions to parliamentary debate in this place, we will remember that she was a good speaker. She was clear and concise, and she was a very, very good parliamentary performer. As has been expressed by a number of people, she certainly would not take a backward step. I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that she did not take a backward step in caucus, outside caucus with her colleagues, in her electorate or in this house when she was being ribbed by the then opposition when she was speaking; she certainly gave it straight back if she was being interjected upon.

What we have heard today about Jaye’s contribution to the parliamentary process, her work as the Chair of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee and the effort that she put in, not just in her electorate, but also in this place, shows that she is a great example of what even a government backbencher can achieve. A lot of government backbenchers still believe that they are mushrooms. That is the sort of derogatory term sometimes

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used about government backbenchers, because it is a case of them just sitting there, being quiet and letting the parliamentary process go on while we get the legislation through. Jaye was never going to be a mushroom, and she showed that not only in her parliamentary performance, but also in her use of the committee. Eventually, when her skills were recognised and she was appointed parliamentary secretary to me, as Minister for Energy, she showed that, as a backbencher, she could really contribute to Parliament and to her role as the member for Swan Hills.

Can I put a suggestion to you, Mr Speaker? This suggestion actually came from the member for Jandakot, and I thank the member for passing this note to me. As you know, Mr Speaker, on the wall adjacent to the switchboard in the foyer on the first floor are portraits of notable women who have achieved firsts in the Western Australian Parliament and also in the federal Parliament. Jaye is a notable woman who achieved a first: she is the youngest person so far to be elected to the Parliament here in Western Australia. With your leave, Mr Speaker, I ask that you consider putting up a portrait of Jaye so that we can all remember her as she was in this house, how much fun she was in this house, and the serious contributions she made to this house. May she rest in peace.

MR J.N. HYDE (Perth) [3.16 pm]: I would also like to celebrate the life of Jaye Radisich. I express my sympathy to Jaye’s family, to Brad, and to her friends and former colleagues who are in the gallery here today. Like Jaye, I was from the class of 2001 and also from the last batch of parliamentary secretaries in the final years of the Labor government.

I had known Jaye for 13 or 14 years, and what became known as the “Millennium Group” was established. People forget that the last time we were in opposition, in those dark days back in 1998 and 1999, we were not expected to win the 2001 election. However, a lot of people like Jaye believed that it was not about just winning; it was about doing something in government, and it had to come from having good policy and good ideas. A number of us were involved at that time in the rather rigid factionalism within the Labor Party, and we were grouped within what was known as the centre left, which allegedly had the balance of power. However, before people such as the members for Girrawheen and Midland got their clutches onto Jaye, some of the younger people in the centre were coming to the realisation that perhaps our new ideas and the new way of thinking, such as trying to make sure that the next time Labor got into government we actually made a difference, were not being taken seriously. So people such as Jaye, the present member for Forrestfield and others who were certainly younger than me and who had great links to the intelligentsia and to the University of Western Australia were always having meetings on people’s old couches covered with cat hair in student flats on Stirling Highway near UWA. It was like episodes of *The Young Ones*. However, there was a great exchange of ideas. My former experience was that I had come from the Geraldton branch of the Australian Labor Party and been chair of the agriculture committee in the ALP, and this was quite a different experience. But Jaye was persistent. She was innovative. She was a person of great ideas. When we reflect on the successes of the then Labor government, I think that the hard work done by Jaye has to be acknowledged.

In 2006 we had been in government for five years. Government members are so busy governing and doing things that they forget to take a breath. It was probably at Jaye’s insistence that we mark the five years that those of us who were elected in 2001 had been elected for. We gathered at Mick’s place down near Wellington Street. It was a chance for us all to take a breath.

Everybody has spoken about the glamorous, vivacious, party side of Jaye, but I remember the very intense personal member of Parliament who took the time to smell the roses. Obviously, she had no idea of what would happen to her in the future, but she knew it was about celebrating the days and her achievements. Jaye has had a huge impact on all of us in this place. I know from my electorate officer, Sylvia, other electorate officers and the lay party that she made a terrific contribution to the party. This is just the shopfront; what happens in this place is the facade. The real things—keeping it real—happen away from this place. Jaye was so much in touch with that world.

MR A.J. SIMPSON (Darling Range) [3.21 pm]: I, too, rise to add my condolences through this motion. I had the great opportunity to work with Jaye on the Economics and Industry Standing Committee inquiry into food labelling in 2006. Jaye’s smile and laugh were infectious. She was the life of the party. She convinced me to go on a television show called *The Couch* on Access 31 at the time. Unfortunately, John D’Orazio, Trevor Sprigg, Jaye and I were on *The Couch* with Fred on a monthly basis. That led to a lot of other things with Jaye. She always dragged me along and made life a lot of fun.

I remember the Economics and Industry Standing Committee inquiry into information and communications technology in Western Australia. Committee members ended up in Las Vegas for the consumer electronics show. Jaye was dangerous in Vegas! I could not keep up with her. The members of the Joint Standing

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Committee on Delegated Legislation ended up in New Zealand. I have a great memory of saying to Jaye at two o’clock in the morning that I wanted to go home, and she said, “No; one more song. Karaoke is on” and away she would go again. That was Jaye through and through. She was always the life of the party.

My wife and daughters and I would like to pay our respects to Jaye’s parents and her family and especially to Brad. Brad put a lot of life into Jaye and I appreciate that. She was always very happy to be with you, Brad. I think she takes that with her.

MR J.C. KOBELKE (Balcatta) [3.23 pm]: I also would like to recognise the contribution made by Jaye Radisich and offer my condolences to her family. A lot of common themes have come through in the individual recollections of members during debate on this condolence motion. We have heard about Jaye’s role in the Parliament and her ability to engage with people on both sides of the chamber, to build relationships, to get on well with people and to enthuse people. We have also heard about, and I have seen, the relationship she had in her electorate, where she not only did great things, but also built very special relationships. That has been evidenced in the outflow of condolence motions and grief from so many organisations across that electorate. We also know how much Jaye’s family meant to her. Obviously, she was close to them and meant a huge amount to her family.

Jaye’s election to Parliament at the age of 24 was not a coincidence, and I think that has come through in people’s contributions. It was not just luck. There was an element of luck, but it was because Jaye was a very special person. She was mature beyond her years. We have heard that she was full of enthusiasm and was vivacious and that she engaged with and listened to people and responded in a way that people understood, and she built relationships out of that. She was very intelligent; she would grasp the issues. She was her own person. She knew where she stood on issues that came forward, and she could articulate the position she had taken. She was certainly a very special person with lots of skills, but she had a love of life, a vivaciousness and a warmth that she offered people.

I want to recount two issues that came out of my relationship with Jaye. Firstly, as some people have said, as a young member and a new member, she wanted to push the boundaries. I saw it differently. She saw things as they were and said, “Why do we have to do it that way?” Her suggestions were always practical and well based. As the then Leader of the House, I could not always take them up as there were many other issues. But she was always thinking about how it could be done better and how she could contribute. At a personal level, that was certainly a wonderful breath of fresh air for the way that our institution worked and the many different parts of the organisation that made Parliament work.

The second thing that I will never forget relates to her electorate. I did not go to her electorate a lot while Jaye was the member. The Water Corporation had for some years wanted to build a new major water treatment plant at Mundaring, and our government signed off on that. Discussion about finding an appropriate site for the plant, meeting fairly tight environmental guidelines and meeting the needs of the community, had gone on for years. Jaye was strong in representing that community. She would say to me that the Water Corporation had done another consultation and it was totally inadequate, and she would name the people she had spoken to and tell me what they were not happy with. So I would go to the senior people at the Water Corporation and tell them to talk to the people in Mundaring again and make sure that Jaye Radisich was involved. There were all these issues that had to be dealt with. They would set that up and a few weeks later or a month later, Jaye would say to me that they had had the meeting but they did not look after this person and they did not look after that person. She just would not let it go. She represented those people, and it was of utmost importance to her that their voices be heard and that we try to accommodate their needs when we could.

In those two experiences of dealing with Jaye in my capacity as a minister, I saw not only the fun side and the warmth of the person, but also a person who was absolutely dedicated and committed to her role as the member for Swan Hills. That is why she is held in such high regard and with such affection by the people throughout that area. I extend my condolences to her partner, Brad Maguire, and to all her family, particularly her parents, Jeff and Dorothy. We can share only a little of your grief, and we stand with you in thought and prayer in these difficult days.

MR A.P. O’GORMAN (Joondalup) [3.26 pm]: I also rise to give a few thoughts about Jaye and the time that I spent with her in this place. My first meeting with Jaye was when we were elected to Parliament in February 2001. My first impression of her was: here is a woman in a hurry. At 24 years of age, she had achieved what it took me many, many years to achieve; I think I was in my early 40s when I managed to get into this place. But Jaye got here in her mid-20s. In her first week in Parliament, she already had her sights set on being a minister,

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and she was rushing to do that. That was my very first impression. I have been reflecting on it in the last week or so and trying to figure out whether it was because of her generation or whether that was just Jaye. Jaye had to get to the top in a hurry probably because she knew she did not have as much time as many of the rest of us have to get to those high positions.

Jaye was always in a hurry and she was always fun, but she was always very solidly behind people. If Jaye had a point of view or took an opinion that she was going to support people, she would back them 100 per cent. She demonstrated that to me one day in this place. Funnily enough, it was about retail trading hours. I think the now Premier moved a matter of public interest motion about retail trading hours. Our position was that we were just going to let it go through and not worry about it. I had a problem with that. Before the vote was called, I left through this door behind me and bumped into Jaye outside because the bells had just started to ring. She said, “You’ve got to go back in and vote” and I said, “No, I’m not” and walked out. Jaye followed me and asked me why I was not going to vote. I told her why and she backed me on that. She backed my decision; she also did not vote. She stood by me. We argued about that with Geoff and, I think, the Leader of the House and the party at the time, but she kept on backing us right until the end. I am very appreciative of that particular situation with Jaye.

I also offer my condolences to Brad and to her family. It is a sad loss at such a young age. She was a great woman with lots of vibrancy and she was always in a hurry.

MR M.P. WHITELEY (Bassendean) [3.30 pm]: My first meeting with Jaye was at the Labor campaign launch before the 2001 election, and it just goes to show how wrong first impressions can be, because when I met Jaye, she struck me as someone who was very quiet and retiring; I went on to learn that that was not the real Jaye! We were elected on the same day in 2001, as were so many members of that new Labor team. We had a lot in common, because we shared very similar electorates; we both had enormous outer metropolitan electorates that had previously been relatively safe Liberal seats—Jaye representing Swan Hills in the north and me representing Roleystone in the south. We also both achieved fairly similar swings. The big difference was that Jaye was the youngest-ever woman elected to the Western Australian Parliament, and I was the 783rd-ever middle-class, middle-aged white man elected to the Parliament, so there was a distinction!

Jaye was incredibly intelligent; she was very passionate and very driven, and, as the member for Joondalup said, she was very hungry for success. She was very ambitious for one so young, and it often struck me that maybe she was too ambitious. I actually said to Jaye, “Sometimes you just need to slow down.” But maybe she knew something that I did not; maybe she knew that her time was limited. She achieved an awful lot in her short life, but perhaps more important than those achievements was Jaye’s enormous character; she was fun, strong and full of energy, and that is what attracted people to her.

She will be missed, and I offer my condolences to her family and to her fiancé, Brad.

MR A.J. WADDELL (Forrestfield) [3.31 pm]: I probably knew Jaye before anyone in this place did, being one of the founding members of the “Millennium Group”—or, as we were later affectionately known, “The Millennium Bugs”, because we had a certain IT bent. We were certainly “crashing the system” as it was then, because that is really what the MG was about—trying to shake things up and trying to reform internal party procedures, and we had lots of ideas. I remember the day that Jaye was introduced to our group; she was certainly very young, but very driven. She fitted right in during the many times we went down south for get-togethers and sat on floors covered in cat hair, drinking champagne and discussing all matters political. They are very fond memories, and I suppose to some extent it is a tribute to what that group achieved that it perhaps helped propel Jaye into this place earlier than would otherwise have been the case. To some extent, her reformist views, about which some members have spoken, might have come out of some of those early discussions.

When I was first elected in 2008, Jaye had already left Parliament and moved on, so we never actually crossed paths in Parliament. However, on my way in and her way out, we sat and spoke about what life in Parliament is like. Perhaps I saw a side of Jaye then that members really have not spoken about today—a side that was a little melancholy and a little sad about the way that things had worked out. I remember this very vividly; she quoted the lyrics of the song *And The Band Played Waltzing Matilda*: “So they gave me a tin hat, and they gave me a gun, and they marched me away to the war”. She said, “This place is very much the same: they give you a car, they give you an office, and they send you off to do good deeds, but they don’t actually train you or prepare you for anything”. At that time I thought, “Well, perhaps she’s just a little bitter at the way things worked out”; but I can say, some nearly four years later, that I now totally get her point.

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In the last speech she made, in reply to a Premier’s Statement—probably the last opportunity she had in Parliament to give a speech on whatever topic she pleased—she made a couple of interesting comments. One was about her longevity, whether it might be six months or 15 years, and she reflected that she doubted it would be the latter. She also spoke about the standards in this place, and how we consistently failed to apply to ourselves the standards that we apply to the general community. She called upon us to actually set a better example and to actually apply to ourselves the same occupational health and safety laws and the same rules that we see fit to apply to the general community. I think that was a reflection of her reformist views, and I think they are views that we should still pause to heed in some way.

Jaye attended my wedding; believe it or not, I was married in the gardens here at Parliament House, in 1999. That, again, was a great celebration of all her friends. Many of those friends stayed loyal to her over the years, and I have been struck quite considerably by the outpouring of grief from those people. I have known many people to die, including close friends, but I have never seen this impact on people. My electorate officer, Dragana Flynn, was a close friend of Jaye’s, and I can say that she is not very productive at the moment because it has hit her very hard. A good friend of mine, Geoff Baker—those members who went to Jaye’s funeral will know he helped prepare the photograph montage—is deeply, deeply cut up. My thoughts also go out to Val Ball; I have not had a chance to speak to her yet. When Jaye left, her electorate officer was Val Ball, and I spoke to her about a suitable person to staff my office, and she suggested Val. We got together and I reasoned that if anybody could prosper in Jaye’s office, they certainly would be well placed to set me up, and Val was a great contributor, so my thoughts go to her as well.

Certainly, my thoughts go out to Jaye’s family and to Brad. I think that perhaps Western Australia is lucky that she and Brad had that hiatus during her period in Parliament; certainly she was besotted to such a degree that I do not think she could have delivered the energy that everyone has spoken of had she been with him over that time! My thoughts go out to her family and friends. Thank you, Jaye, for the opportunity to know you.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [3.37 pm]: I would like to make a small contribution to this condolence motion. I first met Jaye, like a lot of other people, in 2001 during my first day in caucus. Probably a lot of members here today would know how daunting it is to go into caucus on the first day. We were all introduced, and someone introduced her as Jaye Radisich, the youngest-ever member of Parliament. I thought, “Oh, well; she’ll take a while to settle in.” I think it was probably the first caucus meeting after that one when Jaye got up and spoke, and let everyone know that, as the youngest member of caucus, she was not going to just sit around and be part of the furniture. Jaye always had a point of view, she let everyone know her point of view, and she always stuck to what she believed in.

As the member for Kalgoorlie was speaking, I was thinking about one night when she first got sick, and she was in hospital. We went to visit her in hospital, but we did not have any flowers, so we took some out of the garden here at Parliament! When we got to her hospital room, there were lots of flowers already sitting on the table. She just looked at our flowers, smiled and said, “Thanks”—I think she knew where we got them from!

Young girls today need role models, and I think that Jaye has been a tremendous role model for young women in Western Australia. I have spoken to both my daughters about Jaye’s contribution as a member of Parliament—her fighting qualities and how she never gave up. To them, she is a role model. I listened to Jim Stynes’ funeral today and people said that what he had done in his life had inspired others. I think that what Jaye has done in her life has also inspired many others.

She leaves a legacy that will live for a long time, not only in Parliament but also in her community. I offer my condolences to the family, on behalf of everyone here, for the great contribution she made to Parliament. We heard about the Country Labor trips. She used to say to me, “I thought you were an Olympic runner and had stamina,” as I tried to go to bed at about one o’clock in the morning! She always had a great sense of humour and was a very strong person, and it did not surprise me that she fought right to the end. Rest in peace, Jaye.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [3.39 pm]: I, too, will very briefly add my condolences to Jaye’s family and friends. As has been said, Jaye was a special person. I first met Jaye in different circumstances, after our first caucus meeting. I was a bit late becoming a member of Parliament because we had to wait until all the votes had been counted and I was one of those people who was elected to Parliament unexpectedly. At first I was a bit like a person in a lolly shop, staring and saying, “Gee; they’re the people I’ve seen on telly, and now I am mixing with them.” In those first few weeks, Jaye was a bit the same. I bought two bottles of wine that contained the parliamentary logo to donate to a raffle. I then met Jaye on the steps of Parliament House. It was probably the first time I had spoken to her, when she asked, “What are you doing with them?” I said, “I’m taking them home

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for a raffle”, and she said “I’ve got a better idea”, and we went back to her room. I put the bottles on the table and reached across to open one of them when Jaye said, “You’re from Collie; the white first.” I was going to drink the red! I got an education from Jaye very early in the piece that white should be drunk before red and “Make sure you don’t spill any.” That was my introduction to Jaye.

Over the time we became very good friends and I learnt about some of the issues young women experience. Jaye spoke to me at times as if I were her dad; yet in contrast I was able to speak to her as if there were no age gap. I found it quite refreshing to talk to a young person who was able to communicate from both sides of the coin. That showed her ability to connect to her community and her electorate so easily, and they connected to her because she put out that, “I’m available to talk to; but if you don’t want to, it doesn’t really matter, but I can listen.” That was a real asset she had, not only as a person but also as a politician.

We always knew with Jaye when we had crossed the line, whether it was over a personal or political issue. When the finger went up to her nose and she pushed back her glasses we knew it was time to step back or she would give us a spray whether we liked it or not. Overall, we can tell by the quality of the condolence speeches today what a great contribution she has made. At the funeral I saw all her young friends, and something in particular that caught my eye was the dress code of the young people who turned up. They took the time to turn up dressed to the nines. The suits were on and that showed how all those young people held Jaye in very high regard. Jaye, well done and my sincere condolences to the family.

The SPEAKER: Members, I ask you to be upstanding and spend a minute in silence in support of this motion.

Question passed; members standing.