

MR JIM MILLAR

Statement by Member for Cannington

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington) [12.58 pm]: I rise today to mark the death of Mr Jim Millar, a person I have always held in great respect. Jim Millar was 53 years old when he died in tragic circumstances in Sydney on 29 July this year, leaving his wife Dianne and daughters Sally and Kate. Jim was a lifelong supporter of the Labor Party and a very passionate and dedicated supporter. However, it was his occupation that marked him out from many other Labor supporters—he was a senior executive with HSBC Bank. I met Jim Millar the first time in 1998 in my role as an assistant state secretary in the Labor Party. It was my pleasure to work with Jim for the next five years until he was promoted by HSBC to lead its Queensland operations. It was Jim's vision to create a forum to allow the business community to speak directly to the Labor Party, to share ideas and ensure Labor listened to business and industry. Jim's vision led to the creation of the Labor Business Roundtable, and he was the roundtable's inaugural chairman. I always enjoyed his company with his famous grasp of language, his good humour, wit and insightful intelligence. I believe Jim would have made a great Labor MP, and, occasionally, we discussed his options in this regard. Sadly for Labor, Jim decided to put his family before his own ambitions when he accepted his promotion with HSBC to Queensland.

I was pleased to catch up with Jim every so often in Sydney, and it was very moving to hear his wife Dianne's touching eulogy at his funeral on 10 August, with so many other Labor MPs. She asked Jim's friends to record our memories and I am pleased to have done that today. My condolences on Jim's untimely death go to Dianne, his daughters Sally and Kate, and his extended family.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm