

PATRICIA (TRISH) BRIGGS — TRIBUTE

Statement by Member for Murray–Wellington

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [12.55 pm]: Today I rise to honour a very special lady in my life and in the life of many others. I would like to acknowledge in the Speaker's gallery family members of Patricia (Trish) Briggs—Peter, Rodney, David, Daniel, Tayla Busher, Leone Becker and Donna Monson. Her husband, Paul, could not make it today but our love and thoughts are always with him.

Born on 7 December 1938 in Fremantle, Trish spent the majority of her life caring for others as a nurse. She passed suddenly on 20 May 2022 at the age of 83. Trish was not only valued in my life and the life of my husband, Charlie, and a big part of my office, but also the definition of a community champion. She was small in stature but a huge character with a devilish sense of humour. She was a staunch Labor supporter and member. She ran for the seat of Murray–Wellington in 2001 and came within 500 votes of claiming the seat. Trish was a Shire of Murray councillor from 2005 to 2017, and a volunteer and communications officer with the South Yunderup/Ravenswood Bush Fire Brigade from 2004 until her passing, with her 20-year service medal presented to her sons and husband, Paul, at her memorial on Saturday, 11 June. Trish was awarded life membership of the Labor Party in 2020. At the 2022 Shire of Murray Australia Day awards, she was awarded the Shire of Murray Senior Citizen of the Year Award. She sat on many committees and boards.

Most importantly, Trish was a mother, grandmother, my mentor and our office guardian. She will be greatly missed by my staff Jayde, Sarah and Fiona. Trish was an avid poet, with many of her poems recited at Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and Australia Day events.

Trish, you will be deeply missed in all our lives. Although you are no longer with us, you will live in our hearts and thoughts forever.

Vale, Trish.