REVEREND MARGARET WARD — TRIBUTE

Statement by Member for Gosnells

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12.56 pm]: I rise to acknowledge the passing of the Reverend Margaret Ward, known affectionately in the Gosnells community as Reverend Maggie. Over 35 years, Reverend Maggie has made a profound impact on the community of Gosnells through the Anglican Church of All Saints as a layperson, a deacon and as a priest. Her commitment was such that she took on all of her ministry in a non-stipendiary role, receiving no financial recompense over all those years. As a lay pastoral minister and as a deacon and priest, she prepared families for their children's baptism and prepared many children for their first communion and confirmation. She was also a much-loved and admired youth group leader. Her greatest commitment was to education, particularly as local coordinator of the Australia-wide program Education for Ministry. Her influence and example challenged many to expand their lay ministry and inspired some to go on to ordination. Maggie encouraged everyone to read the Bible intelligently, and with the benefit of a recent scholarship. She was a contemplative person, frequently undertaking retreats at the New Norcia monastery, where the Abbot, the Right Reverend John Herbert, was her spiritual director. She led retreats at All Saints Church and was both a lay director and a spiritual director within the Anglican Cursillo Movement renewal program.

Maggie's efforts always reflected the role of the deacon—the bridge between church and community. She organised welfare programs, ran stalls and coordinated church fetes, acted in and stage-managed old-time music halls and Christmas concerts, sang in music groups and did much more. Even though diagnosed in 2009 with ovarian cancer, Maggie persevered in her ministry, until this year she became too ill to continue. She fought a brave fight and has left a lasting legacy in the community of Gosnells. It was a life lived to the full and in selfless service to others. She is greatly missed.