

RUSSELL RAYMOND, OAM — TRIBUTE

Statement by Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests) [2.09 pm]: I am greatly saddened to report the passing of Mr Russell Raymond, OAM, a prolific contributor to the multicultural, aged care and community services sectors in Western Australia and across this nation. Mr Raymond passed away peacefully on 25 August.

He was a senior journalist in Perth and was also known for his tireless commitment to a wide variety of causes to improve the lives of Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse communities of Western Australia. He was secretary of the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia; board member, vice-chair and president of the Multicultural Services Centre of WA; president of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA; and was actively involved in the Western Australia–Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Association and other welfare organisations. He served on the board of many organisations, including the Australia Day Council, Advocare, Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services and the OZ Concert committee.

In 1994, Mr Raymond was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the North Perth Migrant Resource Centre and the media. His journalism career included being subeditor at *The West Australian*. Born in Sri Lanka, he was a role model for many migrants and refugees through his immense contributions in promoting community harmony and social cohesion, as well as his advocacy on many social issues of concern to all Australians. Mr Raymond was well known for his selfless commitment to improving the lives of others. He will be dearly missed.

I acknowledge the presence of his wife, Shirley, and their daughter, Carmela Pernice, in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon. On behalf of the state government, I offer our sincere condolences to Mr Russell Raymond's family, colleagues and friends.

Members: Hear, hear!