

**PARLIAMENTARY WINTER RECESS — COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS**

*Statement*

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Finance)** [5.06 pm]: As the house will soon rise at the end of the autumn session, I take the opportunity to update the house on a couple of matters, but also to extend best wishes to officers and members of the house for what I hope for many will be a happy and safe winter break. As we are all aware, this house needs to acknowledge that some changes in cabinet arrangements were announced by the Premier earlier today. I would like to formally offer my congratulations publicly to Hon Michael Mischin on his accession to the cabinet, in which I am sure he will perform with distinction in the role of Attorney General. I would also like to offer congratulations to Hon Peter Collier on his changed role. He has now assumed the position of Minister for Education, in addition to his portfolios of energy and Indigenous affairs. Again, that is another significant appointment.

The other member of cabinet I would like the house to remember is Hon Norman Moore. Members have been inquiring after him in recent days, and understandably so, because of course he has been unwell. It is one of those challenges. I have spoken to him on a number of occasions in recent days. He is resting at home and being, I am sure, quite a difficult patient and chafing at the bit to be back at work! I have, as any friend of his would, and as I am sure have some members of the house, admonished him to make sure that he takes a break and does not come back to his onerous duties prematurely. But I have complete confidence that he will disregard those instructions! I am sure that, at the end of the session, we would all like to record our hope that the Leader of the House is back on deck on our next sitting day, as indeed I hope we all will be.

I think this has been a good session. I thank the Leader of the Opposition, the leaders of the other parties and all members for the way they have conducted the business of the house. I am proud to be a member of this Parliament, and that has been reinforced by my experience of this session. One thing I do know is that no house of Parliament has a hope of functioning properly or with any form of distinction unless it has the benefit of competent and professional officers in the form of its clerks-at-table and other assistants and parliamentary officers. We are very blessed with all our staff, so to the Clerk and, through him, to all the team, I would just like to say thank you on behalf of all government members.

This is only the midyear parliamentary break, so it is not the time for end-of-year valedictory speeches, but I want to place on the record my appreciation of my colleagues for their assistance, particularly over the last few weeks when I have had a few extra little jobs to do. Finally, I do hope that we are all back here, safe and sound, at our next sitting day, which I am sure will come around sooner than we expect, as these things do. In the meantime, Mr President, I wish all members and staff a safe break away from the house.