

**MARGARET DUFF — CONDOLENCE**

*Statement by Member for Warnbro*

**MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro)** [12.56 pm]: I rise to mark the loss of a fine Western Australian, Margaret Anne Duff, who passed away on 25 August. Margaret lived her life guided by a fundamental belief in fairness. Her deep sense of social justice was offended when the Tresillian centre for disabled children in Nedlands was closed by the first Court government. From then until her death, Margaret served as a fierce champion of people with disabilities. Her efforts in this field are legendary in the Peel region and Rockingham. She was instrumental in improving services, establishing respite homes and bettering the lot of countless people. In her working life, Margaret forged a reputation as one of the most skilled and professional electorate officers in the state. Her career spanned more than two and a half decades. She worked with former parliamentarians Beryl Jones, John Cowdell and Kim Beazley, and, finally from early 2007 until her death, she was my electorate officer, mentor and trusted friend. Margaret's legacy in this arena lives on through her sister and dear friend Judith, electorate officer to the member for Armadale.

Sadly, Margaret's life was marred by the deep tragedy of the loss of her first daughter, Kate, who she tenderly nursed at home until her death at the age of seven. Despite her own pain, Margaret brought an understanding and empathy to every encounter with those less fortunate. Her support of the Aboriginal people of Pinjarra earned the trust and respect of several generations of that community. Margaret, the girl from a humble background in working-class Fremantle, would eventually count amongst her friends Prime Ministers, ambassadors, Premiers, ministers and a legion of members of Parliament and local councillors. She was rightly recognised with life membership of the Australian Labor Party earlier this year. But Margaret's fondest love was, and greatest legacy is, her family. Margaret will be deeply missed by her beloved husband, Max, her surviving children, Allan and Rachael, her son-in-law, Richie, and her daughter-in-law, Trish, and her adored grandchildren, Jordan, Luke and little Oscar.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*