

**AGED-CARE SECTOR**

*Statement*

**HON AYOR MAKUR CHUOT (North Metropolitan)** [6.42 pm]: I am standing up to acknowledge Hon Dan Caddy for the motion that was discussed in the house today. It was a very important motion to me and to other people who did not get a chance to speak, and I thought I should use my time now to give acknowledgement to him and all the honourable members who made contributions to that motion.

I was not very impressed with the Leader of the Opposition's comment today. This is my first time standing up to respond to something, but I really feel that the aged-care industry is a very important industry and it is very close to my heart. I am a migrant; I came here when I was 16, and the aged-care industry employs many of my people. Who are my people? They are the migrant community—women, single parents and people who are really struggling. They are trying to get on, and they are the ones who are doing these jobs. In the discussion earlier I was hoping for more and better support from the Leader of the Opposition in support of that motion, because it was a very important motion.

I come from South Sudan, and in South Sudan we actually look after our elderly people. We do not have an aged-care system where I come from. When I came to Perth I found out that our elders are looked after by very important people who are very passionate about what they do, and they care about our elderly people. I feel that their wages should have been covered and spoken about, but I am really excited that our federal opposition leader, who I think is going to be the next Prime Minister of Australia, has covered my wishes and what I really think the aged-care industry should be. We should look after aged-care employees so that they can do their job properly. They are not well looked after. They are really struggling. Some of them are working three jobs.

Most migrants have children, and they are running from one job to another. I have examples from my own personal experience, including cousins and aunts. These are people in the community who are in an industry in which what they do is not really appreciated. Their pay cannot keep them going, so they are choosing to go from one facility to another. The aged-care industry could be great if one particular aged-care member could remain at a facility instead of having aged-care workers going around all the facilities. We do not want to have to keep introducing elderly people to new people every day. We want them to be well looked after by one particular person, who they are used to. That is why it is very important for us to look after our employees so that they can keep up with the demands of our growing population in Australia.

Hon Dan Caddy, thank you so much for that motion. I really give acknowledgement to those who attended the rally yesterday for the wonderful job they do in the community. I was brought up to understand that our elders are our blessing. Our elders are the people who give us their wisdom so that we can be better. I am where I am today because of our elders. It does not matter if an elder comes from a Western country or anywhere else. If you find an elder, they are always going to give you a word of wisdom, because they have lived a life. Thank you, President, for giving me this opportunity, and have a good evening, everybody.

*House adjourned at 6.47 pm*