



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Main Committee

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Fourmile, Mr Lloyd

SPEECH

Thursday, 17 October 2002

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH

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Speaker Entsch, Warren, MP	Question No.

Mr ENTSCHE (Leichhardt—Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources) (9.49 am)—It is my sad duty today to bring to the House's attention the passing of the Deputy Chairman of the Yarrabah Community Council, Lloyd Fourmile. Sadly, Lloyd passed away over the weekend and the community is very much in mourning. What makes it even more tragic is that Lloyd was 43 and died of a massive heart attack, something that we see far too often within our Aboriginal community. There are tragic consequences when so many bright young men who are really making a difference within their communities have their lives cut so short.

Lloyd was very active. He started his political career back in the early 1980s when he was elected to the Yarrabah council. He served a term as chairman of the council. In 1983 he was named the Indigenous Person of the Year for his advocacy of Aboriginal rights. He went on to be Chairman of the Aboriginal Coordinating Council—a very responsible job—in Far North Queensland. In that job he won a tremendous amount of respect from both the Aboriginal community and those outside the community. He was also an ATSIC regional councillor. More recently, he went back to his roots, back to Yarrabah, and held the position of deputy chair of the council.

Lloyd was a very religious man. He was the local minister at St Albans Church of England. He was well respected in that regard. He has a young wife, Melita, and five beautiful children: Gerald, Natasha, James, Jo Anne and Esmereld. I am proud to be able to call Lloyd a good friend. I know the community is very saddened by this tragic loss, especially as he was so young. As I was coming here today to pay my respects to Lloyd, I spoke to the current Chairman of the Yarrabah Community Council, Peter Yeatman, who told me that another young man, Vivienne Miller, aged 46, who was a ganger on their CDEP, passed away from a heart attack yesterday. That is a double blow to the community. We are losing too many of our young Indigenous people to this disease. It is a tragedy. There must be something we can do better. My prayers and thoughts go out to Melita and the children and to the Yarrabah community on their tragic loss.