



VALEDICTORIES

Mr PICCOLO (Light) (18:35): I would like to put on the record some thanks. This is my last opportunity in this session of parliament to speak. I thank all parliamentary staff. I will not go through each individual person but I thank all the parliamentary staff. I thank them for their support and hard work. I acknowledge that I was well served by them in my first term here. I would also like to pay tribute to my electorate staff. It is not an easy task working for someone like me and I thank them for their hard work and support throughout the years. I acknowledge the contribution they have made and that they will make leading up to the election.

I also thank my parliamentary colleagues for their great advice and support. I must acknowledge that when I first got elected I was probably a little green and made a few errors. I welcome and acknowledge their support and advice. I thank all the ministers and their staff whom I have badgered, annoyed and pestered, but I thank them for their good grace and their advice and support and also for the results they have helped me deliver. I thank the Premier and his staff. I acknowledge the support I have received from the Premier. He has always been able to come to my electorate when I have required him to do so; and that has not gone unnoticed.

I thank my community, including the RSL club, sporting clubs, faith groups, seniors groups, service clubs, the schools and the school councils. I thank the community at large, including the farmers at one end of the electorate and the grape growers at the other end. I acknowledge the contribution of those people who are trying to rebuild the Peachey Belt and the people in my home town of Gawler whom I have served for many years.

I would also like to thank my sub-branch members who have put up with my reports on a monthly basis. The sub-branch has just celebrated its centenary year and it is fitting that for the centenary year that both the state and federal members are Labor—and we hope to maintain that in the coming years. I also acknowledge the elected members and officers of the constituent councils. We do not always agree on things, but we have developed good working relationships in order to get things done for the community, especially those we have in common.

I would also like to put on record my apology for any errors and omissions I may have been responsible for in my first term. These are not the ones that people have already pointed out but, rather, the ones that have not been pointed out; so I apologise for errors and omissions. I have tried to do my best, but I am sure I have made stuff-ups from time to time.

Before I was elected to this place, I was campaigning for this position and I remember going to a public meeting—a rather infamous public meeting. I will not go through all the details, but I ended my speech that night by saying that I wanted to be a local member and not a politician. I would like to think I have maintained that commitment.

I wish the members for Little Para, Taylor, Stuart, Flinders and Mount Gambier the best in their retirement and concur with the comments made by other members. I wish them well and acknowledge their contribution this parliament.

Finally, I thank my extended family that has supported me. Certainly, last but not least, my immediate family, I would like to thank my two sons Raffael and Stefan. We are a small but effective unit that works hard together. Over this time, there have been some trying and challenging times and we have worked through those.

I would like to say now that, God and the community willing, I hope to join the other first termers to serve the community in the next session of parliament, and continue to serve my electorate of Light. I wish everyone well, and members of the opposition also.