

## SPEECH

<b>Date</b> Tuesday, 8 November 2022	<b>Source</b> House
<b>Page</b> 2597	<b>Proof</b> No
<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Responder</b>
<b>Speaker</b> Shorten, Bill MP	<b>Question No.</b>

Mr SHORTEN (Maribyrnong—Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Minister for Government Services) (16:20): In Australia we're witnessing communities enduring catastrophic flooding far too often. Just weeks ago my own electorate of Maribyrnong, which I've represented for 14 years, and the neighbouring electorate of Fraser were one of these communities. I visited flood affected areas of Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley on the day the river peaked and was shocked by what I saw. The Maribyrnong River, usually the heartbeat of our community, a place for people to gather for picnics and play and park runs, had threatened homes, lives and livelihoods. Many flood affected residents I spoke to on that day and the next day were overwhelmed by the losses that they could not even begin to calculate, yet they still managed to think of others. People put everything aside to help neighbours.

I heard stories of elderly residents being unsure and reluctant to abandon their homes because of the rapidly rising river, the homes where they'd raised their families and which hold their memories. It was these older community members whom neighbours rallied around and rescued. Older Australians who may not have known there was government support were collected by neighbours and driven to the emergency centre where a Services Australia team had been swiftly deployed to help flood victims.

Then there was Darren Syrmington and his family who, with nowhere to live, were victims of a callous act of looting in the subsequent days. Their accounts were drained and credit cards maxed out. Everything that could go wrong unfortunately did go wrong. Darren reached out to my office for help, and we helped. He rang my office just today to say he was appreciative of the good work of my staff at a time when his brain was mush. We were able to at least alleviate some of the stress. And I want to give a shoutout to remarkable Moonee Ponds West Primary School teacher Kim Simmons for bringing Darren's story to my attention so we could have the opportunity to help.

The list of people I wish to acknowledge is far too long for the brief time allocated today, but I want to mention the Victorian State Emergency Service, who did at least 60 rescues; Maribyrnong City Council, led by their mayor, Anthony Tran, and CEO, Celia Haddock; Moonee Valley City Council and their CEO, Helen Sui, and Councillor Rose Iser, in particular; Victorian government staff; the Victorian Police; and, of course; all the volunteers. I also want to acknowledge the council workers, the unsung heroes, who've been doing the work on that day and ever since. I acknowledge the federal member for Fraser, Daniel Mulino, who's been remarkably diligent; state members Katie Hall, Ben Carroll and Danny Pearson; and, because floodwaters don't respect electoral boundaries, the wonderful people in my Maribyrnong office, who have fielded hundreds of calls and helped anyone who needed assistance regardless of their address. But my biggest thanks are reserved for the people of the Maribyrnong River corridor. I love our neighbourhood. I admire their spirit and resilience and their willingness to put their own needs aside to help others. It has just been humbling.

## Speech at funeral of Cr [redacted]

Funeral of Cr

Friday 8 June 2023  
Speech 2 -3 mins

I'm honoured to stand here and speak about [redacted], and incredibly grateful to [redacted] and [redacted] for giving me the chance to do so.

It's easy to find good words to say about

The mere mention of his name makes people light up.

Someone who commented on a Facebook post about Jim's passing even likened him to Santa Claus because he was so 'joyful'...

What a wonderful compliment to say someone is full of joy.

But that described [redacted] perfectly.

A man with an interest in 'everything', and larger than life in everything he did.

In the way he loved his family – who generously shared him with the 30,000 plus voters of Moonee Valley's Mymong Ward...

...the way he walked the length and breadth of the ward on weekends – visiting community events, sports clubs, parks, playing his beloved lawn bowls...

## 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday message

100<sup>th</sup> birthday

Video to be recorded 30 November 2022

1922 was a year of many iconic events.

The Sun News Pictorial was launched in Melbourne. Qantas started its first passenger flights.

Vegetemite was invented. And [Name] was born in Albert Park.

Living in the Pascoe Vale area for the last 93 years – many of those decades spent there with your beloved late wife, [Name] – makes you something of an anchor in a sea of immense change.

Your loyalty to this part of Melbourne is also evident in your career as an electrician with the [Company Name].

It's not often you find someone who has worked from apprenticeship to retirement with the same employer.

A little birdy told us that at one stage when you were working for the Council you became aware of some market gardeners down along Merri Creek who didn't have any electricity. Lo and behold, somehow, as if by magic, those hard working migrants got hooked into the grid and free power!

I'm sure not even your dad, as [Name], would have chastised you for that.

Your daughter [Name] paints a picture of a man with a strong personality who is independent and advocates for himself. One of the generation bred a bit tougher than those of us who followed.

[Name] illustrated this point when she spoke of a visit you made to her in Nambour. She wasn't sure why you were ignoring her reminders to take your pills until eventually, a little annoyed, you told her the only tablets you take are one for reflux and a Vitamin D. I think we can say, [Name], that you are the text book definition of rude health.

I've loved learning about the array of experiences you can look back on as you reach your centenary.

From your days of shooting rabbits for JA McCraith (mac-ray) Rabbit Merchants; working at the 1956 Olympics; being an in-demand dance partner at Saturday night socials; to heading out fishing on the houseboat you and your mates built.

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 November 2022 2:26 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: Video messages [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks,

Have sent to the event organisers so hopefully all good.

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 November 2022 3:13 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**

**Subject:** RE: Video messages [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi there

Please see links below. Let me know if you have any troubles accessing them.

[NDIS Commission's All Staff Festival](#)

[100<sup>th</sup> Birthday](#)

Cheers,

Kind Regards,

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

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I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live on. I pay my respects to all Elders, past and present, of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations.

**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 November 2022 2:17 PM

To:  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: video messages (SEC=OFFICIAL)

Hi  
Please find NDIS Commissioner's All Staff Festival and 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday videos for the MO via the link below.

Thanks,

Kind Regards,



I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live on. I pay my respects to all Elders, past and present, of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations.

From:  
Sent: Tuesday, 29 November 2022 5:07 PM  
To:

Cc:  
Subject: Video messages (SEC=OFFICIAL)

Hi  
The scripts for tomorrow. Thanks so much for accommodating the video messages.

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From: Tuesday, 29 November 2022 5:07 PM  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: Video messages (SEC=OFFICIAL)  
Attachments: v2.02022; NDIS Commissioner's All Staff Festival.docx; NDIS end of year message.docx; 'We Live' v2.02022; NDIS grad.docx; SA End of year message.docx

Hi  
The scripts for tomorrow. Thanks so much for accommodating the video messages.

29 July 2023

Speech – 15 mins, Q&A 15 minutes

...or 'involvement in a life situation', as it is termed by the World Health Organization.

The goal of the NDIS is to offer necessary and reasonable supports to Australians with disability so they – and their families – can participate in life.

It's a pretty simple ask.

Unfortunately, the NDIS was unloved during the coalition government years...

...and I won't mince my words, it went off the rails.

I establish a

### **Early intervention**

As with the esteemed science community, some of whom are with us today, the NDIS is considering the importance of early intervention in reducing support required later in life.

Now I just want to emphasise that does not mean getting 'kicked off the scheme' down the track just because there has been this type of pre-emptive support.