Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2728

Richardson, Fiona Catherine Alison

(1966 - 2017)

Born	19661122, Dar es Salaam Tanzania
Died	20170823, Melbourne Victoria
Occupation	Parliamentarian

Summary

Fiona Richardson was an Australian politician, who joined the Australian Labor Party (ALP) in 1991. She was elected Member of the Legislative Assembly for Northcote in the Parliament of Victoria in November 2006, was re-elected in November 2010 and again in November 2014. She served as Minister for Women and Minister for Prevention of Family Violence in the Labor Government after they were elected in November 2014. She oversaw the establishment of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence in 2015, which tabled its report to Parliament in 2016.

Richardson passed away at the far too young age of 50, from breast cancer.

Details

Fiona Richardson migrated to Australia with her parents and two brothers in 1969. She completed a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree at the University of Melbourne, majoring in Politics and Psychology. Richardson worked at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital before travelling to the United Kingdom. She returned to Australia in 1994 when she began work for the VACC, advocating on behalf of service station operators.

From 1996 Richardson worked as an Electorate Officer for Mary Gillett, Julia Gillard, Gareth Evans, Martin Ferguson and Stephen Conroy. She was elected MLA for Northcote in late 2006, and became Parliamentary Secretary for Education.

Richardson served the Victorian people as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Northcote for eleven years (2006-2017). Her important contributions to the status of women in Victoria cannot be underestimated. She oversaw the establishment of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence in 2015, which tabled its report to Parliament in 2016.

On 25 June 2013, it was announced that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer. She went into remission and returned to parliament.

On 7 August 2017, Richardson announced she was taking medical leave from parliament.[9] On 22 August, she said she would be extending her leave after being diagnosed with several tumours and would retire at the next election,[10] but she died the next day, 23 August 2017, aged 50.

Published resources

Site Exhibition
Carrying on the Fight: Women Candidates in Victorian Parliamentary Elections, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2008,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/cws/home.html

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details
Barbara Lemon

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