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Part I - Debates
Part II - Questions
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Mr Finch: Slide out the door on your belly.

Mrs BRAHAM: Mr Deputy Speaker, could I start again so that this tribute may be made without interruption?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mrs BRAHAM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to pay tribute tonight to a dear friend, Noreen Johns, who passed away on Friday 25 April. Noreen and her husband, Maurie, are long-time friends of Graham and I and we have enjoyed many a social evening together. She was born Noreen Maloney at Mt Gambier in 1925. After local primary education, Noreen boarded at the convent in Angus Street. Noreen's call in life was the teaching profession. She commenced her training in 1949 and served at Yahl and the Adelaide suburbs. In 1952, Noreen came to teach her favourite, the Year 2s at the Hartley Street school, which is now the headquarters of the National Trust in Alice Springs.

Noreen's out-of-school activities included her much loved horse riding, and working in a voluntary capacity with Sister Eileen at St Mary's Hostel by the Gap. They also played basketball with the Rovers team at Anzac Hill - that was where basketball was played in those days - and participated in drama group productions. Noreen loved her drama. The *Centralian Advocate* wrote of her participation in a local production of *Murder at the Vicarage*: 'Of course, Noreen Maloney stole much of the show as the sharp, observant and gloriously comic cockney maid at the vicarage. Her timing was perfect and her facial expressions enough to win scores of laughs'. The comment on her performance in *See How They Run* said that Noreen Maloney was superb at times. 'Her difficult, sustained portrayal of a spinster under the influence, boisterous at one minute but enough of her prim nature dominating at times to make her try to be proper although in an alcoholic trance, that was fine acting'. I am referring to 1952 and Noreen had not yet married at the time.

Whilst she was in Alice Springs in those early days, she met Maurie Johns. Maurie successfully courted Noreen and she became engaged in October 1954. Noreen had a great sense of humour, and a dry wit. She returned to Adelaide to teach in 1955 and she commented to her family that this separation of 12 months was to find out if he was fair dinkum. That was typical of Noreen. After honeymooning in Western Australia, Maurie's home state, she returned to Alice Springs to commence married life and, after a couple of years, a family. Housing accommodation was not plentiful at that time and this necessitated some 12 shifts in 15 months from temporary accommodation to a permanent house in Raggatt Street, with a child on the way. Noreen returned to teaching in 1970, firstly at OLSH and then at Ross Park school until her retirement in 1983. I was pleased to be a colleague at Ross Park school with Noreen. She was a traditional teacher who gained respect for her straightforward manner but sound teaching ability. Noreen was one of those teachers who said you taught children to read, to spell, to write and to count, and she did it extremely effectively.

She was indeed a lady of many talents, but most of all we will remember her for her dry, quick wit. That brand of wit remained with her to the last weeks of her life. While she was in Royal Adelaide Hospital recently, a young doctor gave her graphic details of a pending minor operation. After his fervent attempts to do his duty, he requested her permission, asked her to sign the form and waited for her reply. A couple of minutes passed by, then she looked at him

and said: 'Are you any good?' The stunned look on his face at her question was an example of how she could bring us all back to earth with one quick remark

Noreen is survived by her husband, Maurie, her children, Peter and his wife Trish, their 2 children Michael and Reece, Andrew and his partner Bernie, and Katrina and her partner Peter. I extend my condolences to the Johns family and assure them of my support whenever they need it.

I would like also tonight to tell members about a marvellous exhibition that has been mounted at the Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame in Alice Springs. The old courthouse is the home of the Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame, and it was reopened to the public on Sunday 9 March. The deputy of the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Mrs Minna Sitzler, performed the official opening. The occasion was the grand opening of the long-awaited *Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives - Women First in Their Field*. It is a permanent display of over 100 photographs of both white and indigenous women who have broken new ground, as the very first in their field, either in Australia or in a state or a territory. The opening was staged appropriately on International Women's Day. Minna Sitzler herself is a 'first' in her field, being the Northern Territory's first woman deputy Administrator, as well as a daughter of a well-known pioneering central Australian family.

The National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame president, Molly Clark, was there as was the vice-president, Pauline Ross. Some Alice Springs women feature in the display, among them the veterinarian, Dr Peg Christian, pilot Christine Davy, CAAMA founder Freda Glynn, and former film star Daphne Calder. The exhibition, which aims to inform, inspire and help to heighten the status of women in Australia, covers 14 fields. It features women first in these particular fields and, like pioneers in the true sense, these women were settlers of a new and uncharted territory - a man's world. The exhibition reveals some of the obstacles they encountered on the way. There was tremendous opposition to women invading traditional male-dominated domains in the early days, and this exhibition highlights the patience involved in being a pioneer. Many of the women featured waited many years to be accepted fully into their professions by their male counterparts. The display covers 125 years of women breaking new ground, from those who were first allowed a tertiary education in the 1870s to Australia's first female Anglican priest, ordained in 1992, who entered what was perhaps society's last male-dominated stronghold.

An attempt has been made to cover a diverse range of women from different states and backgrounds, including the achievements of numerous Aboriginal women ranging from Maria Ellen Pangieran, also known as Ellen Cuper, who was appointed post mistress of the Western Australian Mission Station at New Norcia in 1874, the first full-blooded Aboriginal to obtain such a position with Australia's public service, to the modern-day firsts of Pat O'Shea, Lois O'Donoghue and Cathy Freeman. However, it is far from the last word on the matter and visitors are requested to leave comments and details regarding other women 'firsts' of whom they are aware so that their records may be added in some way.

I commend the committee of the National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame, in particular Pauline Ross, for the tremendous work they did, and I acknowledge the contribution of staff from the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, including Glenn Cole, Christine Bree and Gary Single. These particular officers spent a huge amount of time helping