Today I announce my retirement from Territory politics, effective from 3rd September.

Until recently, it was my intention to contest the 2012 election. However, as a result of ongoing health issues, and on the advice of my doctor, it is necessary for me to leave politics to regain my health.

The people of Araluen are entitled to have a Member of Parliament who is able to represent them tirelessly. As I am unable to continue to provide this level of representation, it is appropriate that I make way for someone who can devote the time and energy necessary to work for the people in the electorate.

I regret that I am unable to serve out the rest of my Parliamentary term, and that a by-election will need to be held so soon after a Federal election. The timing does, however, ensure the election of my replacement before the next Parliamentary sittings, commencing on 19th October. This will ensure continuity of representation in the Territory Parliament, which I believe is important.

Representing the people of Araluen has been an honour, a privilege, and a pleasure.

I sincerely thank them for the confidence they have placed in me over the years, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity they have afforded me. I also thank them for their friendship and support, and I wish them well for the future.

I will make some additional comments in the adjournment debate this evening, and I will write to my constituents early next week; other than that, I do not propose to make any further public comment.