
Chief Minister Clare Martin moved the motion, describing Ms Ruddick as a "senior Territorian of great note".

"Her place as a highly respected matriarch of one of the Territory's largest families and her outstanding contribution to tolerance in our community should be recognised," Ms Martin said.

Ms Ruddick's grandson and member for Millner Matthew Bonson told Parliament Ms Ruddick was a part-Aboriginal woman removed from her mother when she was seven or eight.

He said she was taken from Limbunyah Station, about 90km from Kalkaringi, in 1922 or 1923 and placed in the Government-controlled institution Kahlin compound.

Mr Bonson said when Ms Ruddick was about 12 years old, she was put to work as a nanny for the future Administrator of the Northern Territory, Austin Asche.

He said Ms Ruddick went on to become a nurse, worked for Hastings Deering and was a founder of the Sunshine Club (an all-nationalities social club).

But he said Ms Ruddick will always be remembered for her sense of humour, tolerance, her unquestioning help and her ability to bring people of all nationalities together in name of tolerance.

"She was an incredibly beautiful person and she was a teacher," Mr Bonson said.