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Change Of Name In Honour Of Mother

The Labor Member for Arnhem in the Northern Territory Parliament, Barbara Anne McCarthy, has legally changed her name to Malarndirri Barbara Anne McCarthy to honour her mother, Limandabina Charlie a strong Yanyuwa and Garrawa woman, who died recently.

Ms McCarthy says, “For cultural and personal reasons I will be using my bush name of 'Malarndirri McCarthy' (pron Mal-an-dirri) to honour the songlines and dreamings of my mother's ancestor's country of the Sir Edward Pellew Islands near Borroloola in the Gulf of Carpentaria. “

“In Yanyuwa tradition there is a significant link to the land and children are protectors for their mother and their mother’s country and ancestors country. So I am using my Yanyuwa name in respect for my mother and my ancestors to give me the strength to continue on in my role as the Member for Arnhem.”

It is not unusual in Aboriginal culture for names to change or not be spoken in respect for those who have died and as an expression of the families in mourning.

Malarndirri McCarthy would like to also commend the Northern Territory Government, Honourable Members, Speaker of the Parliament and Legislative Assembly Staff for showing support, respect and understanding for the cultural needs required at this time.

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