

House of Assembly

September 24, 2009

REDMOND, MRS I.M.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:52): I, too, rise to congratulate the member for Heysen on her meteoric rise to become the first female leader of a major political party in South Australia. Even though I have been her political colleague only since 2006, I have admired the way she works, and note that she came to this august place in 2002. It is refreshing to see her attain the position of leader, and it is refreshing to see that it has been achieved on merit. Even her selection to this place was achieved on merit, and that is to be commended.

People of either gender, male or female, should have equal rights and equal opportunity to get to where they strive to be, whether it be in public life or their private life. Certainly, in the debates I have witnessed that have been led by the member for Heysen, involving legal bills and taking on the Attorney-General, she has impressed me with her candour and the way in which she manages those debates. It is great to see her rise to the leadership. She has hit the ground running, and I believe that she will make an excellent premier in 2010: indeed, 21 March 2010 will be a great day for all of us—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: —that's fine—when we come back to this place in power. With those few words, I salute the member for Heysen. I think she is doing a magnificent job.