



**THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
MEMBER FOR CORIO**

THE PASSING OF MEHMET TILLEM

Today we remember Mehmet Tillem who has left us far too early.

A Senator for Victoria, Mehmet's time in the Parliament was short, but his work and sacrifice for the Labor movement and the Australian public was not.

Mehmet held many staff roles through his career including being the Chief of Staff to the Hon Philip Dalidakis, former Victorian Minister for *Trade & Investment, innovation & the Digital Economy, Small Business*, and ministerial adviser to the Hon John Eren the former Victorian Minister for Sport, Tourism, Major Events and Veterans' Affairs.

Born in Turkey, Mehmet moved to Australia at just two and joined the Labor Party when he was 19 years old. His life is emblematic of Australian multiculturalism at its best.

Mehmet Tillem was committed to providing opportunity to those who don't have it, providing a hand up for those who needed it, ensuring people had a voice when they couldn't find it. Mehmet dedicated his life to helping those who needed it most. Loyal, engaging with a wickedly dry sense of humour.

Having known Mehmet for more than 20 years, what has always stood out to

me was his engagement and leadership with young Labor activists.

Many of Labor's best and brightest next generation in Victoria have looked to Mehmet as their mentor. They are and will continue to be Mehmet's enduring legacy.

Mehmet is a dear friend of mine who I will greatly miss.

I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife Ferda, son Mikail and his parents Ramazan and Fatma.

SUNDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2019

Authorised by Paul Erickson, ALP, Canberra.