



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Community Recognition Statement

12 October 2021

AUNTY DENISE EMMERSON

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) :

After more than 25 years working in student support roles, Aunty Denise Emmerson has retired from her position at the University of Newcastle.

She was bid a farewell by her colleagues over a morning tea with COVID-19 restrictions forcing the event to be held over Zoom.

Denise held a variety of roles in her years at UoN, ranging from a Project Manager for the Student Games Committee, to a receptionist for the Aboriginal Medical Unit and the Wollotuka Institute, and for the past 18 months has been a student mentor.

She will be sorely missed by the University, and has been described as a "humble woman who reminded people of their mothers or grandmothers" and "kept staff and students grounded and connected to their culture and community".

Aunty Denise plans to leave the Hunter and move up to family in Millmerran, Queensland, before eventually returning to where she grew up, around Hervey Bay.

She intends to travel back to Newcastle to see her son, and keep in touch with colleagues and students.

I wish her all the best in her future plans.