



Farewell for Australia's first aboriginal minister; Family, friends and politicians have attended the state funeral of Western Australia's first Aboriginal MP Ernie Bridge.

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Family, friends and politicians have attended the state funeral of Western Australia's first Aboriginal MP Ernie Bridge.

Mr Bridge died almost three weeks ago from asbestos related diseases aged 76.

About 1000 people attended today's funeral at Arena Joondalup to pay tribute to a man described as truly remarkable.

Tributes flowed about his career starting as a stockman and going on to become Australia's first Aboriginal cabinet minister, all the while releasing seven albums of country music.

Mr Bridge was an MP for 21 years.

Former premier Peter Dowding delivered the eulogy and described Mr Bridge as fiercely loyal and determined.

The deputy premier Kim Hames said Mr Bridge was one of the most outstanding individuals he had ever had the privilege of knowing.

The Governor Malcolm McCusker said his energy was boundless and he was undeterred by the obstacles of discrimination which he overcame with wisdom and humour.

MPs past and present attended today's funeral, including former premiers Carmen Lawrence and Richard Court.

Mr Bridge is survived by four children and 11 grandchildren.