



Speech by

DESLEY BOYLE

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard 7 November 2001

MR M. J. CLELAND

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (10.28 a.m.): It is with sadness that I report to honourable members of the House the recent passing in Cairns of Malcolm James Cleland. Mal, as he was known to his colleagues and friends, died before his time after a long battle with cancer. Mal Cleland was a true far northerner. He was born in Gordonvale on 22 February 1945. His family moved into Cairns when he was three years old, and this is where he did his schooling and where he first showed his sporting talents.

After completing school, Mal became an articled clerk with a local solicitor, completing his legal studies by correspondence. He graduated and was admitted as a solicitor in the mid-1960s. It was as one of the respected members of the legal profession that I came to know Mal. He sought my services as a psychologist on behalf of his clients, particularly during the 1980s. I also came to know Mal's wife, Kay, through her community endeavours, particularly in establishing support services for parents of multiple births. Both have been well known and well liked in Cairns for many years. From his childhood, Mal was a fine sportsman. He played A grade cricket for many years and was selected to play for the Queensland Colts. Mal held various positions on the Cairns Golf Club, including captain, spanning a period of 20 years. Mal loved golf and shared this consuming passion with Kay, who is also a fine golfer.

Mal, notwithstanding his professional, sporting and social life, was a family man. I was fortunate to serve on the Cairns City Council with Mal's brother, John Cleland, who was too briefly the Mayor of Cairns. His strong connection to John, Bob and other members of his family was obvious. So, too, was his love of and pride in his four children—Rachel, Matthew and twins Belinda and Keren. It must have hurt his heart badly to leave them. I have only fond memories of Mal, and that is so for many people in Cairns. I am sure they join with me in placing on the record how pleased we were to know Mal Cleland and to express our sincere condolences to Kay and to Mal's children and wider family. I hope Mal has discovered that there is indeed a paradisiacal golf course in heaven.
