



Speech by

**Hon. J. FOURAS**

**MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE**

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Hansard 17 September 2002

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Deaths of Mr G. P. Scassola, MP, and Mr H. B. Lowes, MP**

**Hon. J. FOURAS** (Ashgrove—ALP) (10.04 a.m.): When I arrived in this parliament in 1977 I met Guelfi Scassola. I got to know him very well because he was very friendly with Peter White, a member from the Gold Coast. I went to boarding school with Peter.

I remember Guelfi as a small 'l' liberal. He regularly expressed his concerns at the excesses of the Bjelke-Petersen government. Guelfi did not support the gerrymander or the lack of accountability in this chamber. What I remember most about Guelfi was that he was a Liberal who was most concerned about the lack of funding for families. At that stage Queensland was the only state that was not providing state funding for women's refuges. I remember having a cup of tea with Guelfi one day and he was outraged at that situation. The Minister for Families mentioned that Guelfi had great concerns about the lack of funding for the disabled.

Guelfi was a thoroughly decent man. I respected his integrity and I admired his values. I think Guelfi Scassola believed that the true test of a democracy is the way in which we address social disadvantage—something that I think is a value we should all consider.

Finally, I would like to join with other members in this chamber in extending my condolences to his wife, Denise, and his family. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend his funeral, but today I am very pleased to be able to say what a thoroughly decent person Guelfi Scassola was. The community of Mount Gravatt and the wider community are all the poorer for his passing.