



Speech by

**Phil Reeves**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

Hansard Thursday, 11 May 2006

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## **DEATH OF MRS E MCCALL**

**Mr REEVES** (Mansfield—ALP) (10.22 am): On 27 April this year, the electorate of Mansfield lost a remarkable individual in the most tragic circumstances. Elizabeth McCall was tragically killed after being hit by a bus while walking to work. Elizabeth was an outstanding teacher at St Peter's Rochedale. Elizabeth was only 41. She was married to Mark with two lovely boys, Tom and Sam.

Elizabeth was involved in the whole St Peter's Catholic community whether it was in the church choir or as a member of the St Peter's Social Justice Group. Elizabeth was a very passionate person. One of her many passions was music, which was a central theme in Elizabeth's life. She loved to sing and bring joy to others. She was a lady of faith, with a rich Irish heritage of which she was very proud.

Elizabeth had a desire to create a better world for everyone. She had a strong awareness of social issues. The plight of Indigenous Australians and refugees, the exploitation of sweatshop workers, the poverty in Third World countries and the lack of adequate public housing were all issues very dear to Elizabeth's heart. Elizabeth was also a very strong and committed union activist. She was a proud member of the QIEU. She believed in the union's capacity for social justice and was a strong advocate for her colleagues.

Our community and Elizabeth's family are mourning. However, the community is a better place because of Elizabeth's contribution. I would also like to thank the community for rallying around to assist everyone. This bus accident was even more tragic because there were schoolchildren from local schools on the bus at the time of the accident. I would like to thank everyone who assisted, whether it was the Emergency Services workers, police, counsellors, teachers or parents. I know that the communities, particularly those from the suburbs of Rochedale and Rochedale South, are very appreciative.

To Mark and the boys and to the St Peter's community: our hearts go out to you all. I am sure Elizabeth will continue to play an important role in your lives, even if she cannot be there in person.