



Speech by

# Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Thursday, 15 March 2007

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## BROWN, MR K

**Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (6.27 pm): This Sunday, 18 March the Inala community will honour Keith Brown for his commitment to the local community. In September last year Keith, aged 76, was playing A-grade tennis. He fell ill, was rushed to hospital and later diagnosed with cancer of the blood. Today Keith is in a wheelchair.

On Sunday the Inala Lions will host a barbecue aimed at raising money for a disability ramp that will help Keith move in and out of his house with greater ease. We will honour Keith with a testimonial barbecue at West Brisbane Tennis Centre. All levels of government will be represented along with members of Inala Lions, St Mark's Catholic Church, West Brisbane Tennis Centre and the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland, which Keith has been actively involved with for a number of years. I thank the *Satellite* and *South-West News* that have featured Keith and this community event in their newspapers.

So many times our true community heroes go unrecognised and seek little, if any, thanks for the countless hours that they give of their own free time. Keith Brown is one of these people. Keith has lived in Inala since 1955. I thank the *Courier-Mail* and, in particular, Bernie Pramberg for his story in last Saturday's *Courier-Mail* titled 'Keith an ace at serving the community.'

Keith raised money 43 years ago to set up a tennis centre in Inala. He played tennis and then became a tennis journalist. Bernie states—

Brown, who was honorary tennis writer for the *Catholic Leader*, and phoned results and stories to most media outlets in Brisbane and Ipswich for 40 years, is immensely proud of his involvement in the Inala community.

In 2000 he was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for services to tennis. Keith's full-time job was a boilermaker with Queensland Rail. He was a union organiser for 42 years and is a life member of the ALP. The State Secretary of the ALP, Milton Dick, has informed me today that Keith has been a member of the Australian Labor Party for 55 years.

I first met Keith as a 12-year-old at Oxley Railway Station. He was working in the railways and I was catching the train to high school. He was always a gentleman and would discuss at length the tennis matches that occurred on Saturday. Keith also played tennis with my father, Henry Palaszczuk, and Pat Cunningham back in the days when the Beatles were at their height—so a long time ago.

Keith Brown is a true community champion. He is selfless, compassionate, considerate and kind. Once in a lifetime you meet someone with special qualities who works tirelessly for others and who seeks no acclamation and no reward. When I first discussed the testimonial with him, he said to me, 'Well, Stacia, we'll donate the funds back to the kids at the tennis centre.' This is classic Keith—always thinking about others before himself.

This Sunday is a tribute to Keith. It is a day for people who have met Keith to come along and thank him for his services to the community. Keith, on behalf of the Inala community, I thank you for your community service, your dedication and your commitment to enhancing the lives of young people in the Inala area. You have touched the lives of many. Keith, well done.