



Speech by

## Dr Bruce Flegg

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2007

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### VALEDICTORY

**Dr FLEGG** (Moggill—Lib) (7.34 pm): Mr Speaker, I am pleased to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in extending the compliments of the season to you and to the members of the House, particularly the members opposite. I hope, as the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have already said, that they have a pleasant time with their families. Their families have given up a lot for them to do this job.

At this stage, rather than reflecting on the achievements of the government, I think one of the things that is very easy for us to forget is that there are a lot of people in our community who do it pretty tough. The Christmas season is often the period of time that is the toughest for them. We have seen many people in Queensland affected by drought. We see many people who, because of mental or physical disability, or because of damaged family circumstances, will really do it tough personally and even more so because it is Christmas time.

I think we should be mindful that one of our roles is to lend people support at the times in their life when they need it. I think particularly of three members of this House who have passed this year—Tom Burns, Ted Row and Bill Kaus, and their families who will be spending their first Christmas without those loved ones—families who gave up a lot when their partners and parents were members of the House and have now lost them during the year.

As the Premier said, there are quite a number of people who have contributed a lot to this state who passed away during the year: Trooper David Pearce; Sir Jim Killen, who was a constituent of mine and a man for whom I had a great deal of respect; and Constable Irwin and Detective Sergeant Kerlin, who lost their lives in defence of the people of this state and in doing their job. We have all seen the tragedy that has been visited on these families, but once again entering into the Christmas period without your father, husband, partner or loved one is a very difficult time and we would think of them as well at this time.

A very close friend of mine passed away a number of days ago, Roma Lipsett. Her family, Kerry and Noel Irvin, Kylie and Selena, will sadly miss their mother and grandmother. My thoughts go out to them during this season as well.

I would like to thank my Liberal Party colleagues who have been wonderful to work with over the course of the year. To 'Plucker' and 'Dicko', Tim, Ray, JP, Jann and, in particular, my deputy, Mark McArdle, who has stepped in for me on quite a number of occasions, I would like to express my thanks for the excellent year we have had together and for the fellowship that we have enjoyed here.

I would express my thanks and my best wishes of the holiday season to our colleagues in the National Party, to Jeff Seeney and Fiona Simpson, and all the other members of the National Party whom we have had a great time working with this year. I hope you have a very safe and pleasant holiday with your family. To the government and the Independents, I would express the same wishes for a very safe and happy festive season.

The staff in Parliament House do a great deal for us. I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in expressing our thanks to Mr Speaker and his staff, Neil Laurie, Siwan and the other staff who

look after us. I express our thanks to the attendants in the chamber, the Hansard staff, the committee staff and the security staff particularly because I am the guy who keeps forgetting to bring his pass and they have to keep letting me around the building. I have appreciated that help. I thank the gardeners and the staff in Property Services, members' support, Bills and Papers, the Table Office and the Parliamentary Library. We put quite a demand on people like Bob Bradbury, Lyndel Bates and Mary Seefried, who look after us so well. This is an appropriate time to express our thanks to them on behalf of all members.

I always like to specially thank the catering staff. I join with the member for Mackay in thanking the catering staff. The staff in the cafeteria have looked after us very well. Margaret, Ellen, Helena and Colleen are always willing to—

**Mrs Sullivan:** Do they still keep your fruit slice under the counter?

**Dr FLEGG:** They have looked after us very well in the cafeteria. I think the member for Pumicestone has been looked after pretty well there as well. The staff do go the next mile for us. They are always extremely pleasant. My children come to the cafeteria. My children love to go there and run up my bill and the staff have always been wonderful to them.

I thank Mary and Bob who supervise in the Strangers Dining Room. I seem to spend a fair bit of time in there as well. They do a wonderful job. They make our guests feel very welcome. I was here the other day with a former Liberal member, Lyle Schuntner, who was here many years ago. He walked in and recognised Mary straight away after all those years. She has been there a long time. To Jaakko, the manager of catering services, I say thanks.

I would like to thank the electorate office staff, particularly the electorate office staff of members on this side. We depend very heavily on them. We are absent on other matters quite frequently. I would like to extend our thanks and best wishes to them. I particularly thank my office staff—Leonie Shepher and Sue Burke. I say thanks to my staff on level 6—Francis Quinlivan, Hayley Coultis, Geoff Howie, Georgina Tait, Michael Bancroft. I make particular mention of James Hastie whose nickname is ratboy. James has a great brain, a great head for radio and an enthusiasm that we are all envious of. I hope he is not listening. I thank the volunteers who come in to assist—Dorreen Farrell, Leigh Warren and Phil Booth in particular.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to my family—Anthony, Mark, Stephen and Jon. Like the family of the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and other members here my family make a lot of sacrifices for me to do what I do. It is right and proper that we should understand the sacrifice they make and thank them for it. I wish everybody a very safe and happy Christmas. I hope that you drive safely.