



Speech by

**Tim Nicholls**

**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

Hansard Wednesday, 4 August 2010

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### **PADMAN, MR L**

**Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (9.52 pm): I rise to commemorate the life of Lester Padman OBE. Lester passed away on 11 July 2010 at the grand old age of 93. Up until his passing, he was an enthusiastic and committed community member who devoted a large portion of his time and his business life to serving the community, not only where he lived but also throughout Queensland and Australia. He was a long-term member of the Liberal Party of Australia. He was an alderman for Clayfield in the Brisbane City Council for two terms as a member of the CMO. A little while ago he turned out at two particularly significant preselections. As a member of the CMO, Les was one of a small band that bore up under the weight of Clem Jones and the ALP in the Brisbane City Council of the 1960s.

Les had a long, interesting and fulfilling life. He was educated at Sydney Technical High School. As a child of the Depression he was interested in one thing and one thing only, which was getting and keeping a job. As a result, he was apprenticed as a photolithographer at 12s 6d per week. He carried on in that role until 1940, at which time he resigned to join the Army. He served in Darwin, was commissioned as a lieutenant and posted to the 2/3 composite anti-aircraft regiment of the 9th Division, with a posting to Borneo from 1944 to 1945. He was demobbed in 1946 and in 1947 he married his wife and love, Linfaye. He rejoined his old employer and within three years had become a director of that company, which was then employing over 80 people.

In 1959 he moved to Brisbane and bought a small, underperforming company called Press Etching Pty Ltd. In 1964 he was elected President of the Printing Industries Association of Australia. During 1964-65 in Queensland the industry was running short of skilled labour, so he joined a state government led trade mission to the United Kingdom to try to find skilled printers. He succeeded in doing so, bringing 50 printers back to Brisbane. However, while in the UK he received an offer from the cultural workers union of Moscow to visit the USSR, which he did, despite some considerable opposition. He found it one of the most enjoyable and interesting experiences of his life.

Les was President of the Queensland YMCA from 1969 to 1975. He was a long-term member of the Australian Institute of Management, serving as president from 1981 to 1982, and was also an honorary life member. For a period of 10 years from 1979 he was chairman of Brisbane's Warana Festival and he subsequently supported Sir Llew Edwards at World Expo 88 in providing cultural and artistic entertainments and shows. He was appointed chairman for the Year of the Disabled in Queensland and served in that role in the mid-1980s. I think one of his great achievements was that he found jobs for 5,747 disabled job seekers. In 1986 he was awarded an OBE and was appointed honorary consul for Belgium for 10 years from 1984. He was also the founder of the Queensland publishing company, Boolarong Publications.

Les was a tremendous supporter of the community. He was a great man and he will be sorely missed. I pass on my condolences to Linfaye, Craig, Sally Anne and their families.