




Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Thursday, 24 March 2011

O'SULLIVAN, MR C

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs) (7.07 pm): I rise to offer my sympathies and sincere condolences to the family and friends of former Brisbane city councillor Alderman Clarrie O'Sullivan. Clarrie, who served the Acacia Ward from 1973 to 1985, sadly passed away two Sundays ago after a long battle with illness. Tonight I want to acknowledge the huge contribution Clarrie made to our local community and indeed the city of Brisbane. I understand that Clarrie was one of the founding members of the local branch of the Australian Labor Party which was formed in 1955. Prior to being elected to council, I am told Clarrie worked for the Public Service here in Queensland. I also know that Clarrie's family has a strong connection with the railways, with Clarrie's own father working on the railways as he raised his family of 10 children in Central Queensland.

Clarrie was elected to council to serve the Acacia Ward in 1973. Clarrie served as the Chairman of Health from 1976 to 1985 and I know that while serving in this role Clarrie showed a great deal of enthusiasm for a number of issues. During his time at council Clarrie oversaw the introduction of the wheelie bin—something we all take for granted now and really could not do without. Clarrie was responsible for the introduction of the very popular Free Concerts in the Park, or FREEPs as they were called. He was instrumental in establishing parklands in the Inala area and, most importantly, he was instrumental in the introduction of the planetarium at Mount Coot-tha.

When he retired from the council Clarrie opened a small business, and I know that he was always interested and involved in what was happening in the local community. Many people talk with fondness about the work of Clarrie, and his family is well known throughout my community. Clarrie and his wife, Eileen, have eight children—four boys and four girls. Clarrie loved his family, especially his grandchildren. He loved serving the Acacia ward, and his legacy is evident in all areas of our local community.

While driving around the streets of Inala you can see the legacy that Clarrie has left for the local community—the original library at Inala and the many trees and parks and upgrades that occurred at Inala. I can remember as a young child my mother used to comment that Clarrie O'Sullivan had planted all the trees in Inala on the median strips. My sisters and I used to talk and we used to think, 'He must be a very busy man, planting all of those trees by himself.' Whenever the trees were cut down or trimmed my mother would say, 'Clarrie O'Sullivan has fixed all of those trees up in our neighbourhood.' Once again, I thought, 'Gee, he has a very, very busy job to be out there by himself doing all of that work in the local area.'

I remember Clarrie as a happy family man, always kind and considerate and out and about in his community. I would like to extend my condolences for the passing of Clarrie to his family. He will be sadly missed by our community but he leaves behind a wonderful legacy and many happy memories.