




Speech by

Ian Berry

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Wednesday, 12 September 2012

IPSWICH HOSPITAL, NURSES

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (11.23 pm): The Ipswich General Hospital was founded in 1860, has continued to serve the people of Ipswich and is now undergoing a further expansion with the addition of a 90-bed wing, to be completed by early 2013. A good many doctors and nurses have graced the hallways of this enduring institution. I wish to speak about those dedicated nurses of past years.

On Saturday, 8 September 2012, in the Humanities Building, Ipswich, I had the honour and pleasure of attending the Ipswich Hospital nurses association's annual general meeting, which happily coincided with the association's 50th graduation reunion, including the celebratory function to be held that night at the Hotel Ipswich International. For the more than 50 attendees arriving from all over Queensland, it was very pleasing for me to see the rekindling of old friendships that had endured from the camaraderie that was formed in the early days of nursing at the Ipswich Hospital. I know from firsthand experience, through my wife's nursing career, both as a trainee and as a registered nurse, of the need to rely on fellowship during the long hours and the short breaks that were the normal part of the shiftwork that came with that profession.

The role of nurse has evolved considerably over the years. As the role was mainly hands-on patient care, the registered nurse had the responsibility to provide comfort to the sick and dignity to the dying—not always an easy task and an everlasting memory that is part and parcel of the nursing profession. It leads to nurses ensuring that they really enjoy their time off in recuperating between shifts. This work-relaxation balance is usually facilitated by fellow nurses who are sympathetic to each other's needs and ideals. It is in this company of past nurses that I felt comfortable and welcomed, particularly when the majority of these past nurses shared with me the familiar grey hair which is a beacon of both maturity and wisdom.

It is with the blessing of the meeting that I relate that Mrs Shirley Brown was elected unopposed to the position of president. Mrs Lorna Hobson again became the treasurer, while the secretary, Mrs Barbara Stephens, was also re-elected unopposed and ably assisted by Eslyn Wass as part of the management committee. A proper and dignified tribute of life membership was made to Mrs Ray Scrivener, and Mrs Margaret Macfarlane was made patroness after a longstanding absence of a patron after the death of Lady Leone Edwards.

On a personal note, it was indeed a great pleasure to be seated next to Mrs Robyn Tindall, a past nurse and, coincidentally, the wife of Mr Robert Tindall, a fellow solicitor and past Australian rules umpire. I met Bob when I became an Australian rules umpire in the 1970s. We had the luxury of swapping tales and reminiscing about those early days in Brisbane.

(Time expired)