




Speech By  
**Annastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

---

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.36 am): I rise in this House to pay tribute to Mr Kevin Jones, who sadly passed away on 13 August 2013. It was only a fortnight ago on the night of Wednesday, 7 August that this House stopped and paid tribute to the years of dedication and service that Kevin gave to the Queensland parliament and, in turn, to the people of Queensland upon his official retirement. Yesterday, sadly, I, along with the Manager of Opposition Business, Curtis Pitt, attended his funeral which, rather than a solemn occasion, was a celebration of the life of this great gentleman. It was a celebration by his family, his friends and the hundreds of other people who knew and admired Kevin Jones. I was particularly moved to see so many staff of this House attend Kevin's funeral. That is a testament to how respected he was and the extent to which his colleagues were touched by his genuine friendly nature, his sense of humour, his professionalism and his dedication to the services of this House.

The respect in which he was held is little wonder considering Kevin Jones dedicated 21 years of his life to the Parliamentary Service, first starting work here on 9 March 1992. Within a short period he was promoted to the position of deputy chief attendant and then went on to become the chief attendant, giving his utmost to ensure the parliamentary chamber ran smoothly and without fault. In 2002 Kevin was given the responsibility for the security of the parliamentary precinct and subsequently was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms and manager of security and attendants.

I was particularly touched with the stories that were shared and the light that was shone upon this great character at Kevin's service at Albany Creek yesterday. If ever the old adage 'larger than life' was apt to describe a person, the person was Kevin. There were stories about his love of his family, his pride in his work and his dedication to his beloved Mitchelton Football Club. Kevin's nephew spoke from the heart about his uncle's engrained sense of humour—and some stories I dare not repeat here—and his unconditional love of course for his family. His daughter spoke of the wonderful childhood she enjoyed because of her father and the regular family parties nearly every Saturday night. The Clerk of the Parliament, 'Reverend Neil Laurie', shared some of the many emails he exchanged with Kevin, especially when Kevin was on his overseas adventures. Neil Laurie told how he and Kevin would occasionally disagree, especially after regional parliamentary sittings, and typical of them both they would both each walk away thinking they had won the argument. Others spoke of Kevin's other passion, his love of soccer. As a young lad, Kevin found a passion for the sport and soon become associated with the Mitchelton Football Club, an association which would last for decades and where most recently he was the club president.

I also have a slight family connection to Kevin. One day he stopped me in the hallway and asked how Kathy and Joe were. I was a bit perplexed. 'Kathy and Joe?' He said, 'You know, your aunt and uncle.' I then found out that Kevin and his wife, Vicki, had actually lived next to my aunt and uncle at the Grange. Earlier this week I received a message from my aunt in which she remembered Kevin and his wife, Vicki, when they moved in next door as a young couple equipped with a very large sedan and a sense of fun. She recalled them saving for trips to go over the border to play the pokies.

She also remembered their great joy at the birth of their first son. My aunt has asked me to pass on her family's genuine sympathies.

I would ask each member of this House to consider the length of service Kevin gave to us in his professional life. He served this parliament longer than but a few of the current members of this place. He saw five Premiers come and go. He watched four different Governors open the Queensland parliament.

Personally, I will always remember Kevin's ability to handle any situation. No matter what challenge was thrown at him he always remained pleasant and was always willing to stop, to say hello and to have a chat. It was this very nature that led to Kevin being awarded a service badge in 2002 for his work on the regional parliament in North Queensland and the Clerk's Award in 2011 for his many years of excellent service in support of the Parliamentary Service.

It is clear that Kevin was a man of passions—passion for his family, for his job and for his beloved sport. I want to pass our condolences to Kevin's family—his wife, Vicki; daughter, Kellie; and sons, Adam and Matthew—as well as his extended family and friends and assure them that our thoughts are with them today. On behalf of the opposition and all former Labor members of this House we pay our respects to Kevin and thank him for his years of dedicated service to this place. We also tell his family that he will be sadly missed.

At yesterday's service there were many photographs of Kevin displayed on a screen—smiling, happy pictures of him doing the things he loved. It is memories like these that we should reflect on. As I walk around the House, I will always truly be thinking that Kevin is just around the corner. He will remain in our thoughts, he will remain in our hearts and he will remain in our chamber here at Parliament House. Perhaps this morning he is smiling down upon us.