




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczyk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 25 November 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Brown, Mr K

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.12 pm): I rise to pay tribute to a great member of my local community in Inala, Keith Brown. Keith passed away on 11 November 2014 aged 84 years. At his funeral last week the love for Keith was clearly evident. One of his close friends highlighted the importance Keith played especially to the Labor Party with the following words, 'Labor has lost three great men: Gough Whitlam, Wayne Goss and Keith Brown.' He truly was in good company.

Keith was a passionate and much-loved member of the Inala community who dedicated his life to many causes. He took particular interest in keeping younger members of our community on the straight and narrow by engaging them in sport, especially tennis. He believed that if young kids were involved in sport that would keep them off the streets and out of trouble.

Born on 23 August 1930, Keith would learn his lessons at Catholic school before embarking on an apprenticeship as a boilermaker. His trade would ultimately take him to work on the railways where he completed a 47-year career. Keith's work in the railways also led him to join the union as a 19-year-old. His passion for the rights of workers led him to serve 43 continuous years as a union representative.

Keith further demonstrated his passionate advocacy for unity against oppression and being a voice for those who are rendered voiceless in his devotion to the great Australian Labor Party. He joined the Inala branch in 1956. When many are often prepared to shun extra responsibility, he held the role of senior vice president for 50 years. He was also a life member of the ALP. If he wanted to be president of the branch, he could have been. However, he refused to take on such roles so he was not taken away from his community work which was so important to him. Ultimately, he stepped down from this role when he fell ill.

Keith's dedication to others spread far beyond organisations like the ALP and the union movement. Sadly Keith's mother passed away as a result of motor neurone disease. Out of the love for his mother and his genuine desire to help others, Keith became a member of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. He believed that by having firsthand knowledge of the disease he was in a position to assist in the work of the association.

He wrote for the *Courier-Mail*, the *Sunday Mail* and, last but not least, the *Catholic Leader* as a tennis writer—penning the results of fixtures across South-East Queensland. He was also involved in St Mark's Catholic tennis club.

Keith Brown was a valued member of our local community and someone who selflessly gave his time, skills and devotion to help other people. He was also a friend to my family. As local members

of parliament, we could not have asked for a more active member who was prepared to give so much to the community and to the people he loved so dearly.

When he fell ill, the people of Inala grouped together and built him a ramp as he could not make it up the stairs. His three passions were clear—his love for his family, his love for tennis and his love for the great Australian Labor Party. Keith was an honourable man—a man of great integrity, a man of great wisdom, a man who lived a very humble and modest life, but who passed his values on to others and enriched their lives for the better.