



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 5 May 2015

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Cahill, Mr BJ**



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Brian John Cahill, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Brian John Cahill was born in Innisfail on 16 February 1931, and later was educated at Goondi State School; Innisfail Convent; Marist Brothers, Innisfail; Cairns State High School; and St Joseph's Nudgee College. After his secondary education, Mr Cahill gained a Certificate of Teaching at the Queensland Teachers College and began a career in primary and secondary school teaching, later becoming the head of the Department of English and History at St Joseph's Nudgee College.

In 1954, Mr Cahill started a career as a news and sports broadcaster, and in November 1959 he read the first television news bulletin ever to be broadcast on Channel 7 in Brisbane. Indeed, Mr Cahill was a pioneer of television broadcasting in Brisbane, and he became a very familiar and trusted face to thousands of people in this city as he read the evening news for over 20 years during stints at Channel 7, Channel 9 and Channel 0, as Channel 10 was then known. I also note that he was the Director of Operations for Radio at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982.

In December 1979, Mr Cahill was awarded the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his service to the community and radio and television news. In 1983, he was selected by the National Party to contest the seat of Aspley, which was held at that time for the Liberal Party by Beryce Nelson. At the state election of October 1983, Mr Cahill was successful in his election and he replaced Mrs Nelson in this place as the member for Aspley. He left this place at the election of November 1986, after having served but one term. During his time in the parliament, he was a member of the National Party's government committees, covering portfolios such as treasury, education, welfare services, tourism and the arts. He was also a member of the parliament's Refreshment Rooms Committee.

I note that throughout his life Brian had a love of music and a particular passion for singing. He was a fellow of the Australian Council of Music and Drama and in 1984, with his second wife, Denise, whom he married in 1966, he formed the Queensland Musical Theatre within which he performed and directed numerous productions. I understand that Brian and Denise first met at the formation of the Queensland Light Opera Company when Denise was the leading lady and Brian was the director. Music was obviously a big part of their lives, and Brian and Denise recorded an album of solos and duets titled *For the Good Times*. I also note that Brian was recognised as being supportive of local musical talent, particularly young singers who were interested in going into that industry.

Brian and Denise were enthusiastic world travellers, and I understand that they owned three boats, with Brian also being a member of the Manly Coast Guard. Mr Speaker, for 15 years Brian served as secretary of the Parliamentary Members Association (Queensland) and remained a regular face here at Parliament House.

Brian passed away on 8 March 2015 at the age of 84, and a funeral service to commemorate his life was held at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church at New Farm on 13 March 2015. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service he gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government, I take this opportunity to extend my deepest sympathies, and that of this House, to Mr Cahill's wife, Denise, his children and stepchildren—Lisa, Patricia, Mark, Christine and Michael—his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and his other family and friends.