




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Holloway, Mr D; Eldon, Mr P; Anzac Day

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.06 pm): Firstly, I would like to note the passing of two union colleagues: Mr Des Holloway, with whom I worked at the QPSU and Mr Peter Eldon of the AWU. I would like to offer my condolences to their families. I would also like to congratulate the Premier on passing the bill this evening. It is another great step on the journey back to integrity in this place.

Recently, I was honoured to represent the Premier at Anzac Nurses Candlelight Vigil. I was also pleased to attend Anzac services locally at the Greenslopes Private Hospital, the Holland Park-Mount Gravatt RSL Sub-Branch and the Coorparoo and Districts RSL. Each of these events was special and commemorated the day in a way that resonated with the local community.

Although each of these events was special and will stay with me, perhaps the event that made the greatest impression upon me was the Anzac commemoration at the Nursery Road State Special School, which is located at the base of Mount Gravatt and which was established a few years ago by combining services previously offered by the Mount Gravatt West Special School and the Xavier Children's Support Network, both fine organisations with a long history of working with children with disabilities. The Nursery Road State Special School is a school for students aged from six to 18 years with ASD, intellectual or multiple impairments.

I was invited to be a guest speaker at this event and I was met at the reception desk by a member of the recently established student council. All members of that council played a role in the school's Anzac commemoration. All the members of the student council displayed outstanding leadership qualities and made the other guest, Warrant Officer Second Class Peter Farmer, and me feel very welcome.

During my address I reflected on what motivates members of the military to take up arms in defence of our nation. I have never been in the military, nor have I experienced personally war or conflict, but I imagine that every single soldier, sailor and aviator at some point wonders, 'For what do we toil and for what do we sacrifice?' Hopefully, schools like the Nursery Road State Special School go some way to answering that question. We live in a society that values the transformative power of education and we ensure that it is available to all.

On Anzac Day each year two nations stop to remember the sacrifice and recognise how it has helped us all to live in a decent society. The decency of our society has been gained through the significant sacrifice of many men and women who have answered the call to defend our society and to defend our values.

I would like to extend my thanks to the student councillors, to all the students, to the school Principal, Shauna St George, and the dedicated staff, to the parents and to the P&C volunteers, particularly the president, Andrea Jost. I would like to acknowledge that the school community have reinforced for me that Anzac Day is an event that has meaning for all Australians and New Zealanders.