




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Ainsworth, Mr H

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.09 pm): I am privileged to have the community radio station 4MBS Classic FM in my electorate. I could devote several adjournment speeches to this great organisation and the amazing contribution they make to the arts in our community and the entire state. However, tonight I want to focus on remembering the life of one of their great volunteers, Howard Ainsworth. Howard passed away after a short battle with cancer. He is survived by his partner, Dr Kerry Vann; his children, Charles and Lindel; and his four grandchildren, Colin, Daniel, Jessica and Martin. I wish to pass on my sincere condolences to Howard's family and to his many friends at 4MBS, particularly Gary and Gail Thorpe.

Howard was the voice of classical music in Brisbane for 50 years. Howard had volunteered at 4MBS since 1993. He was best known for his signature program *Music Lover's Choice*. This program ran on a Saturday morning for 40 years, first on 4QG and then on 4MBS for the last 23 years. It has been said that, if you give a person a job they love, they will never work a day in their life. Howard continued doing what he loved right up until very close to the end of his life. To promote the Greenslopes State School's 125th anniversary, I and a former student of the school were interviewed on his program. Sadly, Howard was too ill to conduct the interview, but he selected the music, bringing it into the studio, educating us about each piece and providing advice to the stand-in presenter, Gary Thorpe, on how to get the most out of his subjects. Howard passed away less than two weeks after that interview. I will always consider it a great honour to have met Howard and to have appeared on his show.

Music Lover's Choice was a classical music institution. During each week's program Howard's guest would select their favourite classical music and Howard would interview them about their life and the music they loved. Over the years guests included governors-general, governors, archbishops, arts ministers, musicians, authors, artists, scientists and people from many other walks of life. On its own, creating and hosting a program that becomes an institution over 40 years is an incredible achievement, but there was so much more to Howard's life and career. Sadly, it would be impossible in the time available to run through the many and varied ways that Howard contributed to his community, to the arts, to classical music, to cricket, to his family. However, I can assure the House that he made significant contributions in all these areas.

So I will leave the final word to Howard. Here is how he summed up his life, 'I am surrounded by what I love: great personal friends and classical music. There is nothing like it. You have it all your life. It's my hobby, it's my work and I love it.'

Vale Howard Ainsworth.