




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 27 March 2015

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (3.20 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Algeester. Madam Deputy Speaker, may I start by congratulating you on your appointment to the office of Deputy Speaker. I am sure that you will excel in that role. As you know, I am a previous member of this House. Notwithstanding that, the honour and privilege to serve in this place is not lost on me a second time around. It will never be lost on me. However, on this occasion I am even more acutely aware of the unique opportunity that has been provided to me to serve my community—the community I grew up in, the community I went to school in, the community I live in and the community I hope one day to raise a family in. It is good to be back. It is great to be back.

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and the traditional owners of the land on which the Morayfield state electorate is based. I pay my respects to their elders, past and present. Although there is still much more work to do, I hope that this parliament and the state government can continue to work in partnership with our Indigenous brothers and sisters to close the gap around our state. History is never lost on me and I am pleased to be part of this historic parliament with the member for Algeester and the member for Cook.

Words cannot completely express the thanks that I have for the people of the Morayfield state electorate, who have once again put their faith in me to serve them as their representative. Service to community means so much to me. It guides my every decision. It motivates my every action. It inspires me on a daily basis. Although the challenges that we face as a community may at times be difficult, I say to the people of the Morayfield state electorate that I will always be there for them. I will always be there to help them. I will always be on their side. To the people of the Morayfield state electorate, I thank them for this opportunity to serve. May I acknowledge the service of my predecessor, Darren Grimwade, who served as the member for Morayfield from March 2012 to January 2015. Although we have different political ideologies, we share a common commitment to our community. I thank him for his service to our community and to this parliament.

It is with gratitude that I also acknowledge the individual support and encouragement that enabled me to be in this place today. To everyone who assisted in my election campaign, I thank them for their selfless assistance and unwavering support. Although many hundreds of people volunteered to assist on my campaign with doorknocking and phone calling, letterboxing, street stalling, early morning train station visits, catering for campaign events and handing out how-to-vote cards, I would like to particularly acknowledge the efforts of Bill Marklew and the CPSU; Gary Bullock and United Voice; the best campaign director in the state, Michael Caisley; Craig Dunn and Jackson Dunn; Drew Cutler and Lisa Cutler; Geddy Kearney, Kas Hilton, Deb Jury and Saroja; Trevor Lewis and Anja; Dr Nicole Kaiyan; doorknocker and letterboxer extraordinaire, Peter Kennedy; Gus Padilha and Eddie Fraser; Dan Clancy, Courtney Graham, who came up from Melbourne to assist with the campaign; Jane McMillan, Elke Moroz and their hardworking team; star social media guru, Krys Brady; Vicki Batty, Therese O'Brien, Yvonne Packbier and her boys; Theresa Butler, Flora Douglass,

Mavis Lambert and their enthusiastic team of letterboxers and street stallers; and Senators Chris Ketter and Claire Moore. My thanks also go to my good friends Chris Whiting, the member for Murrumba—and it is good to finally have Chris in this place, especially in this place with me—and his wife, Sian Whiting; and Ken Hayward, the former member for Kallangur, and his wife, Janet Hayward, for always offering good advice but, most importantly, for always providing good friendship.

I could not be in this place if it were not for the support of my family. My parents, Pete and Robbie, and my brother, Gerry, the most generous and selfless people I know, have been here with me the whole time. My community spirit comes from them and I am so fortunate to have them in my life. As Grandma Ryan was known to say, up the workers! My partner, Holly, who I met here at parliament during my first term, is the most amazing person I know. Although both Holly and the member for Bundamba were very disappointed that I did not propose to Holly in this place during my last term in parliament, I am very lucky that Holly accepted my proposal at a later date and I am very excited about this journey with her. Quite simply, I am much better with Holly in my life.

There was much said about former members of this place seeking election to this parliament at the 2015 state election. Negative comments about those former members—that they were recycled—are offensive and hypocritical. To actively and negatively dissuade individuals from pursuing opportunities to serve their communities and their state is a disgraceful act in a parliamentary democracy. Irrespective of one's politics, no-one should ever be dissuaded from seeking election to this place. Whether someone be a former member of this place, a former Lord Mayor of Brisbane, a former local government councillor, an electorate officer or whatever, as participants in our democracy we should all be encouraging greater participation, not less. To personally attack an individual's desire to participate in our democracy highlights the attacker's own unwillingness to build a strong, robust parliamentary democracy.

No doubt there are many reasons people seek election to this place. When I was contemplating my candidacy for election to this place at the last election, I always had to remind myself of the power of government to effect real change in people's lives. When I was previously the state member for Morayfield from 2009 to 2012, I tried to encourage volunteerism in schools by volunteering in local school tuckshops. One day when I was on tuckshop duty a mum from one of the local schools came up to thank me for attending her son's graduation ceremony. I used to get around to a lot of graduations, so I asked her, 'Which school did your son attend?' She told me that her son went to the Morayfield youth justice flexi school. The Morayfield youth justice flexi school is for young people who are struggling with mainstream schooling and require some additional support to address their complex needs. It is a special place that is making a big difference in young people's lives. Quite simply, the flexi school breaks the cycle of disadvantage and marginalisation. It keeps kids out of jail. This program was established and funded by Labor. I asked this mum what her son was up to now that he had graduated. The mum told me that her son was now an apprentice mechanic. Many of us would know that apprentices are not the highest paid individuals around, so I was particularly inspired to fight for my community when this mother also told me that her son was now earning more money than her family had ever seen and that she was just so proud of him. Making a difference in the lives of people such as that proud mum and her son motivates us to work as hard as we can for our community. I wanted to again work hard for the people of the Morayfield state electorate.

I will always believe that the Australian Labor Party is the only political party that has the capacity and willingness to deliver fair and good government and to make a real difference in the lives of the most vulnerable, most disadvantaged and most marginalised people of our community. I am proud to be a member of the Australian Labor Party. This year is the 100th anniversary of the election of the TJ Ryan Labor government, a reforming government, a government that laid the foundations for a period of progressive social and economic reform for Queensland. Interestingly, the 1915 Queensland state election has numerous similarities with the 2015 Queensland state election, including the defeat of an unpopular conservative Premier in both instances. I am sure that there will be more opportunities to talk about this particular anniversary at later times.

The 2015 Queensland state election was about jobs, front-line services, integrity in government and stopping the LNP's privatisation plans for Queensland's most profitable public assets. I am proud to be part of a team, part of a government, that is committed to creating jobs and job opportunities, restoring and enhancing front-line services, rebuilding integrity in government and keeping Queensland's most profitable assets in public hands. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Queensland, this House and the people of the Morayfield state electorate once again. I look forward to working hard to make a difference.