




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Holloway, Mr DG

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (12.13 pm): A few weeks ago Queensland lost one of its great champions for social justice and workers' rights. Sadly, on 7 May 2015 Desmond George Holloway passed away. Des was my friend but, more importantly, he was a wonderful husband to Garbo and a great father to Clint, Michelle and Devlin. Des was a unionist and a proud member of the Australian Labor Party. For many years he was a member of my branch, the mighty Burpengary branch, of the Australian Labor Party. Unlike many current commentators and those opposite, Des understood that there was nothing wrong with being a unionist. Like Des, I am proud to be a union member. Moreover, I know that Des actively encouraged union membership for public sector employees because he knew that better employment conditions would be delivered by workers collectively campaigning for a better deal.

Des's memorial service was held at a place that is now called The Chapel. It is on Pitt Road at Burpengary, but locals still prefer to call it the Burpengary Baptist Church. I think Des would be pretty happy that his memorial service was held at this place because it is regularly used as an election day polling booth. In fact, this polling booth is a joint polling booth for both the Morayfield state electorate and the Kallangur state electorate. At the 2015 state election, it recorded a 15 per cent swing to the Labor Party in the Morayfield state electorate and a 21 per cent swing to the Australian Labor Party in the Kallangur state electorate. I think Des would be especially proud of those results.

Des's children delivered a wonderful eulogy at the memorial service for Des which truly captured Des's diverse and colourful life. I am thankful to them for allowing me to make a contribution in the House today in celebration of Des's life. Des was born in Springsure, Queensland on 28 September 1955. He was the youngest child of parents Frederick and Beatrice Holloway. His family included four siblings: brothers Keith, Hedley and Lawrence, and his sister, Lynda. Des was a prefect at Mackay State High School and developed a great love for the Mackay lifestyle of fishing and boating.

In the 1980s Des and his family moved to Collinsville and Des started work at the local power station. Des worked in the power industry for many years and I am told he formed many strong friendships and created many good memories during that time. In fact, in 1988 one of Des's good friends and a former member of this House, Geoff Wilson, made some inquiries which ultimately led to Des being invited to attend the inaugural national power industry conference for trade unionists. At the time, Des had been noticed as a hard worker and top bloke due to his leading role as a Queensland FEDFA delegate during the major SEQEB dispute during the Bjelke-Petersen National Party government in 1985. Des was very proud of the role that he played during this dispute because he was fighting for fairness and the rights of his work colleagues.

During the 1990s, Des became a full-time organiser for the Australian Services Union and later worked for the Queensland Public Sector Union, now known as the Together union. Des was a strong advocate for his members and work colleagues and would always step up and defend them fiercely. In fact, upon the occasion of Des's good mate Geoff Wilson becoming education minister, Des was rumoured to have called Geoff to congratulate him. He then let Geoff know that Des was now looking after Education Queensland employees and proceeded to tell Geoff off about what needed to change, whether Geoff liked it or not.

In 2008 Des, Garbo and their youngest son, Devlin, moved to Morayfield. It was known that Des would often rave about the local shopping centre, the pie and peas from the local bakery and the tucker from the local fish and chip shop. After moving to Morayfield, Des was a keen supporter of local ALP campaigns, and I am grateful for the assistance he provided to me. In fact, Des's wife, Garbo, was telling me that Des loved seeing my billboard on Buchanan Road at Morayfield during the state election campaign and would often remark about how excited he was that Chris Whiting and I were elected at the election.

On behalf of the state member for Murrumba, Chris Whiting, I wish to convey my deepest sympathies to Des's family and friends. Rest in peace.