




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 1 March 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Callanan, Dr V

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.42 pm): I rise tonight to speak about one of the truly great Queensland medical professionals who was duly recognised for his outstanding contribution to medicine, spanning 55 years, during the Townsville Hospital's Staff Excellence Awards held recently. On that point, I commend the Townsville Hospital and Health Service's board, led by Chair Tony Mooney, in deciding to hold this event for their most important asset, the staff of the Townsville Hospital and Health Service. It was fantastic to have the Minister for Health attend as well. The awards recognised and honoured those staff nominated by their peers who have demonstrated high values each day in delivering high-quality health service and demonstrated integrity, compassion, engagement, accountability and respect.

Tonight I would like to pay tribute to a distinguished gentleman who is ultimately most likely responsible for me standing here in this parliament giving this speech. His name is Dr Vic Callanan. He is an associate professor of anaesthetics and has been recognised formally by numerous professional and community leaders including the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, Australian Resuscitation Council and Surf Life Saving. He started practising medicine in 1960 in Home Hill. One of his many roles in Townsville was chair of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade—and some members may remember the former name of the QAS—which I joined in 1990 as a much younger man than the one standing in this House. I applied to join the Townsville brigade. Dr Vic and his committee must have seen something in me as I got a start.

Some seven years on I went on to begin the intensive care paramedic program and was mentored by many senior consultants and anaesthetists of the Townsville Hospital including Dr Vic, who ran the intensive care unit of the Townsville Hospital. That was just another one of many achievements during Vic's remarkable and seemingly endless years of service. It is remarkable that at over 80 years of age Dr Callanan, now retired, still visits the hospital to provide mentoring for young anaesthetists each Friday. I recall during my training in the intensive care unit several years ago that a lady collapsed. Her blood pressure went through her boots. She had atrial fibrillation and there he was; Dr Callanan and the team went to work. Dr Vic looked at me as a young student and he said, 'What do you think we should do?,' and I said, 'Cardiovert.' He said, 'Righto, you do it.' I did it and she survived, and he said, 'Beginners luck!'

As a member of state parliament, I ask my fellow members to join me in simply saying thank you to Dr Vic Callanan. He is indeed truly one of the most remarkable gentlemen I have ever had the pleasure to meet. On behalf of our Queensland government, I say thank you for his commendable and admirable contribution to saving the lives of many Queenslanders.