




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Greenslopes Electorate

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.04 pm): At the last election, I went to the people of Greenslopes and I asked them to give me a chance to work with them to build our community. My community had endured the disastrous Newman government—with 14,000 sacked public servants; community members shut out of consultation; people who live in social housing targeted in so many cruel ways; the closure of the Barrett Adolescent Mental Health Centre; community groups gagged and de-funded; the hall promised at Cavendish Road State High School stolen and taken to Ashgrove; attempts to shut down the Coorparoo Secondary College; fights with doctors, lawyers and firefighters; unemployment rising; the absolute gutting of courses and students at the Mount Gravatt TAFE; and the stupidity of walking away from federal funding for the Cross River Rail. While all of this was happening, the former LNP member for Greenslopes sat by and said nothing, not standing up to defend our community.

People told me that they wanted to build our community not destroy it. I felt the way forward was to listen to the community, to respect the people in our community and to work with each of them to build our community. Our community has worked together to prevent domestic violence, to protect greenspace, to improve infrastructure in our local schools and sporting clubs, to get back our rights to have a say on development issues, to improve our public transport services, to recruit volunteers and fundraise for community groups, to provide health education on stroke and CPR, to support local businesses, to save historical buildings, to grow local jobs and to back our local schools.

Building community through backing local schools and growing local jobs came together this week. I am really proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that has created over 115,000 jobs. Each of these jobs is important. However, one of these jobs is particularly special. Recently, I was contacted by the Holland Park P&C. Due to oval improvements delivered by the Palaszczuk government, the entrance on Victor Street was now being used by more students and the crossing was no longer safe. I spent a morning and an afternoon at the entrance talking to parents and observing the situation. I then met with the minister and worked with public servants from his department. I was pleased that this term our community saw the commencement of a school crossing supervisor.

While I was out doorknocking recently, I was tracked down in the street by a lady named Gabrielle after leaving my calling card. I knew Gabrielle through her volunteer work with the Australian Pain Management Association. Gabrielle told me of her struggles to find paid work. When I was advised that the school would be getting a new crossing supervisor, I rang Gabrielle and encouraged her to apply. She did and she got the job on merit. Now Gabrielle welcomes the students and their families each day, keeping them safe.

Mr Speaker, this is how you build community. You make yourself available in the community. You listen to people's concerns. You look for opportunities to connect people and organisations. You stand up for your community. You work constructively with local people, businesses, public servants and community organisations. Mr Speaker, I make a commitment that I will continue to create local jobs, back local schools and work hard to build our community.