




Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2017

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: JONES, MR NF**

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.10 pm): I also rise to speak in support of this condolence motion today. Gerry Jones led a remarkable life even before his election to the Australian Senate on 18 October 1980. It was a decade and a half of service as a Queensland representative in Canberra that Gerry Jones secured a respected place in Australia's political history.

Senator Jones's maiden speech in the Senate on 16 September 1981 is as relevant today as it was nearly 36 years ago. It focused on, among many other matters that we have heard today from other speakers, important matters including uranium mining and also the Fraser government's budget. Senator Jones was strong in his attack on the budget, its impact on housing affordability and a federal government system that he asserted made it difficult for young Australians to afford the great Australian dream of buying their own home.

Senator Jones also railed against the closure of the Community Youth Support Scheme as a loss of services to young Australians, measures adversely affecting funding for public hospitals and financial support for single mums and dads. Social justice and equality were recurrent themes of Senator Jones's addresses to the states house in Canberra.

Gerry Jones was a man of social conscience, a man of contribution, a man of achievement. We have heard today of his achievements in being a Deputy Whip and a Government Whip, which are such important roles in any house of parliament. His legacy to Queensland and Australia is one we can all be proud of. Gerry Jones will be sadly missed. I also pass on my sympathies to his wife, Rita, and their family, particularly his daughter Angela and her husband, Michael, daughter Sabrina and granddaughters Lacey and Charlotte, who are joining us in the gallery here today.