




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 9 May 2017

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Mr PR Gray

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.41 am): I rise to add my personal support and that of the entire opposition to the condolence motion moved in respect of the late Phil Gray, the former member for Gaven. Phil was a passionate advocate for the Gold Coast and Gold Coasters in his time in this place. I knew him from 2006 onwards. As an erstwhile primary and secondary teacher he was also particularly strong on education and community issues. He was involved in a number of community associations, as has been outlined by the Premier. He was a somewhat engaging orator and he had the people's touch. He was willing to speak his mind, and my recollection of him is that he frequently did so. He had a unique style in this place, and those of us well remember that unique style. Phil was often a favourite of the media, providing choice quotes and statements that found favour and were readily reported as well.

As the Premier reflected on his changing hair colour, I have to say that my recollection is that it went from grey to black and then to orange at some stage in the proceedings, which was somewhat unusual. Once while giving a statement to the media I was asked whether I had any comment to make in relation to the then member for Gaven's changing hair colour. That left me somewhat stumped, other than to say that black was not the new orange.

Phil Gray made a contribution to this parliament and he made a contribution to his community. On behalf of the opposition I support the motion and extend our condolences to Mr Gray's family.