




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2017

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: JONES, MR NF

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.04 pm): I rise to add my personal support and that of the entire opposition to the condolence motion moved by the Premier in respect of former member for Everton and former Queensland senator known as Gerry Jones but christened Norman Francis Jones. I am told that apparently his father insisted that he be called Gerry. In later life he actually formally took steps to change his name to reflect those wishes and what he was long accustomed to being known as.

As the Premier has indicated, he was born on 16 August 1932 in Roma and was the younger of two sons of William Norman Harcourt Jones and Kathleen Alice Jones. He was educated in Dalby at St Columba's School. After leaving school, he took up a five-year apprenticeship in joinery, before establishing his own business in Dalby and later on the Gold Coast. Mr Jones married Rita June Freda Turner on 30 June 1956 and had three daughters and a son.

1956 was obviously a big year because he also joined the Australian Labor Party. Mr Jones was an unsuccessful ALP candidate for the House of Representatives seat of McPherson at the 1963 federal election and Kennedy at the 1969 federal election. He was obviously a member who got around a lot—from the far south of the state up to gulf and the far north.

He was also the organiser of the antiapartheid demonstrations against the 1971 tour of the South African rugby team—a six-week tour that became somewhat infamous after a state of emergency was declared in Queensland. He was ultimately successful in his third tilt at politics and served as the member for Everton between May 1972 and December 1974, when at that election the Labor Party was reduced to 11 members.

Mr Jones then turned his attention to the federal arena and served as a Queensland senator from July 1981 to June 1996. He served as Deputy Government Whip in the Senate from August 1985. He was then promoted to the position of Government Whip—a position he held until retirement his in 1996.

He was instrumental in the Senate's decision to call on France to cancel its nuclear test program in the South Pacific and was a regular critic of the mining, selling, storing and disposal of nuclear material and spoke at antinuclear demonstrations outside Parliament House. He was obviously a passionate believer. On behalf of the LNP, its MPs and members, I wish to extend my condolences to Mr Jones's family and friends.