



Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2018

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Harper, Mr RM**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.48 am): I rise today to speak to the condolence motion for Robert Harper, or Bob as he was known in the Mount Ommaney community, on behalf of the Mount Ommaney community as the newly elected member. Bob was the member for Mount Ommaney over 20 years ago, and in his maiden speech he said, 'It is my experience as a family man that leads me in part to want to work to enhance the values of our society.'

We need to encourage and support in our community putting back some of those old-fashioned values and backing those many individuals and organisations that work so hard to help others and improve our world. This was the legacy that Bob intended to leave for the electorate of Mount Ommaney. Twenty years later I can assure the House that his passion for community work is alive and well in the Mount Ommaney electorate. In Bob's own words, he owed his passion for community service to his love for his family and the love that they gave him in return. I know that his family, including his wife, Rhonda; children Jacinta, Hayley and Deanne; his sister-in-law Val and his grandson Hugh, are here with us today.

Apart from his great love for his wife, Rhonda, they shared a deep passion for politics. This was evidenced in August 2016 when Mr Harper was awarded a certificate for 50 years membership of the LNP. At the same time his wife, Rhonda, was also awarded a certificate for 40 years of membership. I am told that they shared a wonderful life full of friendship and love. I know that his family will all be incredibly proud of Robert and the work he did in our local area both as the member for Mount Ommaney and as a member of our community.

Although he has not been the member in our area for over 20 years, you do not have to go far to find someone with a wonderful story to tell about Robert. One of these people is another former member for Mount Ommaney, Julie Attwood, the Labor member from 1998 to 2012. Julie was Bob's immediate successor. Despite being from the other side of the political fence, she has told me many times that she always found Bob to be an incredibly helpful person in helping her to settle in to her new role as the member for Mount Ommaney. Those of us sitting in the House today will know how unusual it is to find someone on the opposite side of the fence willing to help and encourage you in order to put the community first. To me, this is the mark of a true community champion—that he set aside partisan politics and put the community of Mount Ommaney first.

Bob's love of his family and of his wife were matched only by his love of community service. I believe that he set a wonderful example of what it is to be a great community advocate, and I believe that each of us in this House today could learn something from Robert's example. On behalf of the Mount Ommaney electorate, I wish to thank Robert for his service to our community and take this opportunity to extend my sympathy, that of the Mount Ommaney electorate and that of this House to Bob's family and friends.