




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

World's Greatest Shave

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.26 pm): Mr Speaker, in just over a week's time I will be sporting a dome that is much like your own esteemed crown. That is right, Mr Speaker—the famed silver locks which have seen me compared to everyone from Shaun Micallef to Richard Gere and even Colonel Sanders are coming off. They are coming off for a cause that I know you support, Mr Speaker. I will be taking part in the World's Greatest Shave to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

I first saw the great work of this foundation in the early nineties when I was nursing at the RBH in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. They supported patients and their families in all sorts of practical ways. The foundation also devoted considerable resources to research. It is thanks to research that we have made significant advances in the care of various types of blood cancers, and people are getting much better outcomes.

After seeing this good work, I decided to collect money for the foundation and have done so most years since the mid-1990s. Last year my brother's partner was diagnosed with leukaemia. The support received from the foundation was tremendous and it made a huge difference to everyone involved. This is a very stressful time for any family, as you well know, Mr Speaker, and the foundation made it that much easier. For my brother Pete, the foundation's help meant that he could concentrate on caring for his partner, Sam. I am pleased to report that Sam is making good progress.

The World's Greatest Shave is on from 14 to 18 March. I would encourage all honourable members to join the shave. I know the member for Clayfield is joining in, as he does every year. He is getting rid of the beard, I believe. If you cannot shave, you can put on a colour. Of course all members can choose whatever colour suits their political allegiances if they like. Perhaps we should get the whips to do a quick count—I am sure the reds will win!

I would also like to acknowledge Dr Trevor Olsen and the Holland Park Lions Club who were instrumental in starting the Leukaemia Foundation. Under the sponsorship of the Holland Park Lions Club, still based in my electorate, the inaugural meeting of the Lions Leukaemia Foundation was held on 2 September, 1975. Six members of the Holland Park Lions Club were in attendance. These were Bernie Stevenson, Keith Ledger, Graham Powell, Fred Bylett, Robert Kendall and Ken Walters. Forty-three years on and the foundation in 2016-17 has invested \$1.862 million in research and provided 53,798 nights of accommodation. The Holland Park Lions Club are rightly proud of this, and I am pleased to report that they are still going strong.

Mr Speaker, the next time you see me I will be looking slightly different. Perhaps we will be doppelgangers. I may even have to borrow a beanie to keep my head warm, but I know this will be for a great cause. I urge all members of this House and all members of the community to support the World's Greatest Shave.