



Speech By Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Ovarian Cancer; Zupp, Ms K

Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.15 am): Ovarian cancer is a devastating disease. In 2017 there were 1,613 women diagnosed with this disease in Australia. As with all cancers, early detection is the key. When found early, 94 per cent of women will live longer than five years. While there are several methods available to attempt early diagnosis, there are no reliable early detection methods available. Research is being conducted into early detection methods. I hope this yields results soon.

I would encourage all people to give generously to ovarian cancer research as it really is the key to eliminating this dreadful disease. At this stage the best thing for women to do is to know the symptoms and speak to a doctor. The mortality rate from ovarian cancer is very high and it is a significant cause of death in younger women.

I have been known to give many speeches on health related issues in this House. I do this because of my passion for ensuring this parliament plays its role in ensuring good health for the people in our community, but tonight I am sadly motivated by the loss of a good friend to ovarian cancer at far too early an age. Many in this parliament will share my very deep sadness at the news of the passing of Kylie Zupp, a member of our Parliamentary Library staff for over 22 years. She was passionate about the role she played in this place. I know that all members of parliament absolutely rely on our librarians to perform our role.

I have been friends with Kylie and her partner, Mark, for somewhere in the vicinity of 25 years. At social occasions Kylie and I always seemed to end up engaging in lengthy discussions about politics. Her passion was fierce and her understanding was second to none. I always walked away from our discussions wiser—somewhat bruised but always wiser.

Members make many sacrifices when they enter this place. One of the hardest sacrifices for me to make was losing those semiregular discussions with Kylie. She took her obligation to provide nonpartisan advice and research very seriously. I perhaps only had the opportunity to have a few conversations with Kylie after being elected and she always let me know that shop talk was definitely off limits.

I have lost a good friend. Our parliament, in fact our community, has lost a dedicated and hardworking parliamentary servant. Mark has lost a wonderful partner. On behalf of myself and the many members of the parliamentary staff who do not get the opportunity to speak in this chamber, I would like to offer sincere condolences to Mark and the Zupp and Kondos families. Rest in peace, Kylie Zupp.