



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 8 March 2018

## ADJOURNMENT

**Kelly, Mrs D**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.13 pm): I rise to take this opportunity to pay my respects and honour to Mrs Dellys Kelly, late of Toowoomba, who sadly passed away on Thursday, 1 March at the Toowoomba Hospice.

Dellys was an extraordinary lady in many ways. She was Toowoomba's education visionary and a political powerhouse who never once took a backward step in achieving whatever she set out to do. In 1958 as a young mother Dellys decided that Toowoomba needed a university. She took it upon herself to drive to parliament in Canberra and demanded to meet with the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, whom she convinced of the need for a regional university in Toowoomba. Dellys secured the Prime Minister's approval for the land and funding with the provision that she would raise £30,000 towards this project. Eleven weeks later, the foundations of what is now the University of Southern Queensland were laid.

Dellys has been recognised as an early founder of USQ and in 2009 she was made a university fellow for her long and distinguished association. Dellys also fundraised for the College Art Union, the Japanese Gardens, 4DDB FM radio station and the Mount Kent Observatory. Dellys's legacy continues to benefit students both nationally and internationally. Dellys's passion for further education continued through her life through her mentoring of high school students in encouraging them to follow their educational dreams.

Dellys successfully ran a hotel business in many locations over many decades, the highlight being when she hosted Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip at a hotel in the Blue Mountains during the first royal visit to Australia. Dellys would talk to only a few people about this, but she had fond memories of chatting with Her Majesty over dinner.

Dellys has been a loyal monarchist and a member of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy for decades. As a political powerhouse, Dellys was a life member and committed over half a century of faithful service to the Liberal Party and then following on from that the LNP. She coordinated election campaigns on behalf of the former member for Groom, Ian Macfarlane. She was a longstanding chair of the Groom women's branch of the Liberal Party and a tireless fundraiser for her local state and federal divisions of the LNP. She was the perfect example of a grassroots supporter for a political party, organising fundraising dinners, Christmas parties, the branch and selling raffle tickets and persuading fellow businesspeople to cough up dough.

Our thoughts and prayers will always be with Dellys's family, but most particularly at this sad time, and her funeral will be held tomorrow at St Patrick's in Toowoomba. Dellys, we know you are looking down on us and we will keep fighting for all of the causes you so much believed in.