




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Greenslopes Electorate, Community

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.28 pm): It is lovely to be here in Townsville. The acknowledgement of country was a great way to start the parliament today. For me it was very nice to meet Ashley Saltner Jr, because I went to school and played Rugby League with his father and his uncle.

An honourable member: You are a young man.

Mr KELLY: I am a young man. It does not surprise me that Ashley Jnr is giving back to his community and supporting not only his culture but also young people who have disengaged from schools, all as a volunteer. This was a great community to grow up in the 1980s and it is still a great community. Through schools such as Magnetic Island State School—the students from that school were in the gallery today—and Ignatius Park College, I learnt the importance of community.

Something that I have committed to in my electorate of Greenslopes is to build community. You do not build community on your own; you look for people and organisations to work with. I have found that many people and organisations want to help to build our community. I have found some interesting allies in building community in Greenslopes and they do it without saying so much as a word. Of course, I am talking about the pets that some people have that become the property of the entire community.

Every week Sydney Dyson brought his dog, Mate, to the start of the Stones Corner parkrun. People would gather around the little dog. Later in the day, Sydney and Mate would sell raffle tickets to raise money for the Amputees and Families Support Group in Stones Corner. My nextdoor neighbours, John and Nesha, have a cat called Storm. Every student at the Greenslopes State School knew Storm. He brought our community together. Little Chopper belonged to Geoff Renowden, who is a dedicated volunteer at the Greenslopes Bowls Club. Chopper was a great dog and a great friend to many people in the community. Everybody knew Chopper, everybody knew Storm and everybody knew Mate.

It is my sad duty to report to the House that recently those three animals passed from our community. We are all very sad about that. We know how important pets are to individuals, but some pets become the property of the entire community and they bring us together in ways that perhaps humans cannot. There is a happy ending, of course: Syd now has a new friend to help him raise money for the Amputees and Families Support Group, Matai or, as I like to call him, 'matey'. Matai is a good friend and Syd is on the road to recovery.