



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2020

## **MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Mulherin, Hon. TS**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.59 pm): Since 1903, 182 Queenslanders have been granted the privilege of retaining for life the title 'The Honourable'. Without reflecting on the other 181 recipients, the Hon. Timothy Sean Mulherin was truly a worthy recipient of the title. He was indeed an honourable man.

I first got to know Tim when I became the Labor candidate for the Redcliffe by-election and joined the Labor state opposition in 2014 to become No. 8. As history shows, it was an opposition small in size but we certainly packed a punch. Although I had had the privilege of serving in another place, like any new member when I joined the Queensland parliament I was learning the ropes and Tim was always there to lend a hand. He was always ready to impart his wisdom and guidance on how this place operated, but in a genuine and supportive way.

I remember travelling with Tim as part of the shadow cabinet. No matter where you were in Queensland, whether here in George Street or on the streets of Cairns or Longreach, Tim felt at home because he was always able to find someone he knew, someone the family knew or someone who was related to his third cousin. That was Tim: a people person through and through. We have heard that from every person who has spoken today.

Tim was a true parliamentarian. He was a master of estimates questioning. To an outsider, Tim's line of questioning would seem boring and routine, but Tim had a way of building a case. He would ask questions that lulled the minister of the day into a false sense of security and then, like a hunter stalking his prey, he pounced with one or two killer questions. I remember one year when the minister went white in the face because they did not see it coming. Tim would have been at home in a courtroom or in a Senate estimates hearing giving the great Senator John Faulkner a run for his money.

Tim was a representative of his community in this chamber for 7,141 days. For 19 years, six months and 17 days, Tim Mulherin got up each and every day to serve to the best of his ability not only the people of Mackay but all Queenslanders. While many when they leave this chamber go off to pursue personal endeavours, Tim remained loyal to the people of Mackay to the very end. He was involved in many community groups and was appointed chair of the Mackay Hospital and Health Board in 2016. That was a position that he relished. He brought to the table his local knowledge, passion for his community and a desire to enhance the health outcomes for Mackay and the broader region.

As minister for health I recently met with all of the chairs of the HHSs across Queensland and they have nothing but high regard for Tim. They asked that we stop and remember him for a moment, which is not surprising and is a testament to him. I only wish that I had had the chance, as the new health minister, to work with him as the chair of that board.

To Erin, Declan, Liam and Rory, thank you for loaning Tim to the people of Queensland for many years. Each and every one in this chamber knows that it is our families who also serve alongside us in our pursuit of public service. For many years the Mulherin family was there serving alongside Tim, enabling him to do what he loved doing. For that we thank you.

On 12 September 1995, during Tim's maiden speech to this chamber, he said, 'Mackay's greatest strength is her people.' While that may be true, I believe that Mackay's greatest asset was Tim. Queensland is most certainly a better place due to his service. We pass on our condolences to all of the Mulherin family. Vale, the Hon. Timothy Sean Mulherin.