




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Pegg, Mr D

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (5.03 pm): My condolences to Duncan's family, friends and staff, many of whom are here today. It is great to have his good friend succeed him in Stretton. I want to make a couple of remarks about Duncan. I did not know him for as long as a lot of people in this House but a couple of things really struck me about Duncan. There was a real dichotomy to him. He was great at a political stunt but also cared deeply about issues in and the people of his electorate.

Back in the day when we could move around and sit next to people as they were giving speeches, during the adjournment debate it was always good to sit next to Duncan and be his cheer squad as he had a crack at those opposite or spoke about whatever issue he was concerned about. It was always good for a laugh.

One issue that really stuck with me that he spoke on a couple of times was the case of a local in his area, Hazem Hamouda, an Egyptian-Australian man who was imprisoned overseas. A few other members have also mentioned this. On an issue such as that you could very easily just write a letter to the minister, go through the motions, fob it off and say that you had done all you could. However, Duncan pursued it pretty fiercely. He really supported the family through it. I do not think it is in any doubt that his contribution to that issue really made a difference to what happened at the end of the day. Obviously he was not pursuing that issue for any electoral gain; he had a deep-felt passion for that issue and he really believed in it. That will stick with me in this place as being something that Duncan did that really mattered.

Something that shows the other side of Duncan was, and it has also been mentioned by a few others, Illaweena Street and the Illaweena Street mums. When Duncan found out that my opponent in the last election was going to be a former Brisbane city councillor, he phoned me and offered to bus the Illaweena Street mums to Aspley to help campaign. I said that that would probably be taking things a little too far, but it would have been a good laugh to bring them up. Duncan was always ready to help out other members of parliament and candidates when he knew there was an issue.

Duncan was, of course, very deeply embedded in his community. He would follow up issues for locals who had no-one else to help them out. If someone had no-one else to turn to, he would pursue their issue because that was his job as a local member of parliament. That is something that will really stick with me. Vale, Duncan Pegg.