




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Pegg, Mr D

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.23 pm): I would like to express my sincere condolences to Graham and Lindsey, Graham Jr, Grant, Cameron and Lachlan. I met Duncan on the very first day of parliament. As a newbie, I remember walking into this place in an out-of-body experience feeling quite overwhelmed with everything that was playing out before me. Just as I was about to take my seat, out jumped this very energetic, bubbly, so full-of-life person. He said, 'Hi. My name is Duncan Pegg. I'm the member for Stretton.' Little did I know I would walk into my very first committee meeting and there was Duncan. He said he felt like I was following him. Now I am not so sure because once again I have the member for Stretton sitting next to me. I am honoured to sit next to the new member for Stretton knowing not only how much Duncan wanted to see a Labor member represent the Stretton community but also how he wanted to leave Stretton in good hands with the now member for Stretton.

I fall into the category of having known Duncan for the least amount of time in this life, but I feel like I have known him for a lifetime. I will never know the true reason why we were seated in the same row in parliament or served on the same committee but, whatever the reason, it allowed me to gain a friend. I know now that that commitment and obligation as a friend comes with a great amount of responsibility as he made me promise—and I knew this was going to happen; the waterworks would flow—that I would get up today. It is my absolute honour and privilege to be able to pay tribute to my dear friend.

Duncan was the type of person who, if you needed him, would be there. The transition into this place for me was daunting. Even though he did not have to, Duncan took time to listen—to talk and to listen. He allowed me to open up to my fears and walked with me through my abilities to handle expectations and responsibilities and about just being a good member, one who takes time to listen and to understand. He became my sounding-board, but he never complained and always said that he wanted to see me succeed—and as our friendship grew he would always cheer me on. When I was too hard on myself, he would remind me of how far I had come.

Duncan loved politics and, sitting back and hearing all the feedback from everyone else today, I cannot say any more than that. Duncan did not have a bad bone in him. He loved his family and he loved his friends and he loved his beloved community of Stretton. I have to have a laugh because that was the end of my speech, but as I would say to Duncan every single time, 'I did the DP today.' I have no notes in front of me. He would say to me, 'Speak from the heart.'

Duncan was a genuine, genuine person. He was kind. He reached out to everyone. He loved Stretton; he loved the people. What I loved most about Duncan was his passion to fight injustices, and he did that in Stretton. People loved Duncan because Duncan took time to sit and Duncan took time to listen. It was not just a job for Duncan.

My friendship with Duncan was not just politics; we connected on a personal level. He loved everything about being in this place. When Duncan rang me to tell me that he was getting up in parliament to put in his resignation, I did not take it so well. After saying that that is what he was doing and there was no turning back and seeing how upset I was, he said, 'I was only kidding.' That was the type of person Duncan was; he did not want to see anyone hurt. He loved his mum; he loved his dad; he loved his brothers. He loved his friends—Don, Nikki, Clinton, James—and everyone in this House, everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. I will miss him—I will miss his advice and I will miss his friendship, but I know he is in a better place.