




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.23 am): The death on Friday, 9 April of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh marks a significant loss not just of a highly respected public figure but of a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. The Duke of Edinburgh's nearly 80 years of service to the Crown, his country and the Commonwealth represents a level of commitment and dedication that is an example to all of us.

Born on the Greek island of Corfu in 1921, the Duke was the fifth child and only son of Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark and Princess Alice of Battenberg—a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria. His disjointed childhood ended when he joined the Royal Navy in 1929. He served with distinction throughout the Second World War. His marriage to Princess Elizabeth in 1947 and her accession to the throne in 1952 ended his active naval career, but saw the commencement of over 70 years service to his Queen.

Part of that service has involved a close connection to many parts of the Commonwealth, and no more so than here. The Duke of Edinburgh visited Australia on over 20 occasions and is the most frequent royal visitor to Queensland. Indeed, his appeal to Queenslanders was captured in a media report of the royal visit of 1954 which stated the following—

The Duke's whole approach to the tour is as fresh and as stimulating as a cold drink on a hot day. He has no set pattern of behaviour to follow, so that he can do almost exactly as he pleases. This gives him a wonderful opportunity to lift the dull routine of the tour into something lively and of more general interest.

Throughout his service to the Commonwealth, the Duke presided as patron or president of nearly 50 organisations in this country. For 65 years the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme has encouraged, as the Premier said, over 775,000 young Australians to explore their leadership potential. To show members how relevant it is today, there are 8,500 young Queenslanders currently participating in this scheme.

It is interesting to note that the scheme was launched in Queensland in 1959—the year of the state's centenary. The objective of the scheme represents much of what the Duke stood for himself: civic participation; physical and mental wellbeing; improvements in employment and educational attendance; environmental awareness; social inclusion; and gender equality. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award equips young people for life and work, offering them a chance to engage with others in order to empower themselves.

The Duke of Edinburgh was a true friend of Queensland and Queenslanders, and he will be greatly missed. Perhaps his contribution over a lifetime was best summed up by the Duke of Cambridge, who said—

My grandfather's century of life was defined by service—to his country and Commonwealth, to his wife and Queen, and to our family.

The Duke's passing is made more poignant by the fact that today is Her Majesty's 95th birthday. At this time of loss, Queenslanders extend our deepest condolences to Her Majesty and the Royal Family.