




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Bertoni, Mr APD

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.39 am): When we come to reflect on the contributions of former members, we are required to do this against the backdrop of our own experiences. Events and personalities of today loom so large in our deliberations that we do not always pause to remember what those who have gone before us have done and what they have achieved. The passing of Angelo Bertoni, the member for Mount Isa from 1974 to 1983, is one such case.

Angelo Bertoni was a true son of regional Queensland. Born in Ingham, he was educated in the north and at the University of Queensland; however, it was in Mount Isa that he forged his professional and political life. A qualified pharmacist, Mr Bertoni established several pharmacies in Mount Isa—a tribute to his capacity for hard work and evidence of his commitment to his local community. He involved himself in all aspects of life in his adopted town and is particularly remembered for his involvement in his local Lions Club and his enthusiastic participation in sport. His prowess as an A-grade squash player was especially notable.

The natural extension of his community involvement was his election as mayor of Mount Isa, a position he held from 1973 until 1975, after he had been elected to this parliament in fact. 1974 saw Angelo Bertoni embark on his state parliamentary career. As a member of the National Party he won the seat of Mount Isa in a closely contested election with both the Labor Party and the Liberal Party. His victory, which saw the government win 69 of the state's 82 seats, was even more remarkable because it marked the end of the Labor Party's dominance in Mount Isa and its predecessor seat Burke, which had been held by the Labor Party since 1918.

Mr Bertoni came to parliament committed to the needs of his electorate. In his maiden speech in 1975 he gave a clear statement of his aims as a parliamentarian when he said—

I am here in this Parliament to represent the people of the North West, embracing the major centres of Cloncurry, Mary Kathleen, Mt. Isa, Gunpowder, Burketown and Camooweal. ... I have come here to fight for the continued growth and improved living conditions of the people of my electorate, which represents some 43 different nationalities.

This speech detailed the issues that he saw as most important for his constituents: the need to receive treatment equal to that applying to people in more densely populated areas; the importance of a reliable water supply; the need for all-weather roads in the north-west; a fair share of tax revenue, considering the wealth generated by the mining industry in Mount Isa; the needs of the beef industry; the importance of retaining police in the region; housing needs; and the importance of air conditioning in homes, schools and workplaces. It was these needs that Angelo Bertoni sought to service during his time as Mount Isa's representative.

In his final year in this House he served as minister for health after the collapse of the coalition government in 1983. In October that year Mr Bertoni was defeated in Mount Isa in a closely contested election with the ALP. Defeat throws up all sorts of challenges, and there is no doubt that his defeat in

that year allowed him to renew his professional career. Initially in the Isa and then in the south-western suburbs of Brisbane, he expanded his pharmacies and built on the entrepreneurial skills he had developed since his graduation and move to the west. He remained active in the community and sold his pharmacies in 2000.

Angelo Bertoni led a full life—a pharmacist, a mayor, a member of parliament, a minister and an active community volunteer. He represented Mount Isa with vigour, with determination. He was never afraid to speak out for those in his electorate, whom he valued. We are pleased to acknowledge his wife, Yvonne, whom I met this morning and who is in the gallery today. The opposition extends our condolences to the entire Bertoni family and trusts Angelo's contribution will be remembered for many years.