




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Pegg, Mr D

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (3.34 pm): On 10 June 2021, sadly we lost our colleague and dear friend Duncan Pegg. Duncan will always be remembered as a passionate advocate for his local community, as a hardworking local member with strong Labor values and as a proud unionist. I am sure we will hear these words time and time again this afternoon. Not only did Duncan know these values; he also lived them. To say I loved him is no understatement. It is very dear to my heart that I was able to tell him so before he passed away.

He was a proud product of state schooling and believed in the transformational power of good education. He knew there was no better investment a government could make than an investment in our young people. Duncan fought hard for his local schools and it bonded us very closely. He never missed an opportunity to sidle up and advocate very strongly for more and more additional education funding. Can I say, many in this House do that from time to time.

From the time he was elected in 2015, Duncan oversaw an investment of more than \$80 million in Stretton schools. This included an investment of \$40 million at Stretton State College alone, and I will always remember how proud he was when we walked through the school last year for the opening of their performing arts complex. The staff and students at the school loved him. After his passing, the principal of Stretton State College, Jan Maresca, paid tribute to Duncan. She praised his relentless support and advocacy, particularly his support for their instrumental music program. Duncan's memory and legacy will forever live on at Stretton State College, with the school naming their performing arts complex the Duncan Pegg Performing Arts Centre after unanimous support from the entire school community. Duncan had this relationship with so many of the people in his community and he only gave up serving them when he knew he could no longer give them his best.

When I was minister for multicultural affairs, I remember that at almost every event I attended with him people would come up to us and share their appreciation for all that he did. Duncan represented one of the most culturally diverse electorates in Queensland and was one of our strongest advocates for multiculturalism. I remember that he was determined to host the first multicultural event that I attended as multicultural minister in his electorate, and he achieved it.

To the Pegg family I offer my sincere condolences. To mum and dad, Lindsey and Graham, to brothers Grant, Cameron, Lachlan and Graham, I know how much he loved you all.

Minister Linard and I visited Duncan on the Saturday before his death and we covered many topics, from politics to music, and we both learned that his favourite karaoke song was Pat Benatar's *Hit Me With Your Best Shot*, which we all sang at the function on the Saturday night. I think we sent him the video, but I do not know whether he appreciated it all that much. I don't know that we did a very good rendition!

Duncan was a great and loyal friend. He worked on my first campaign. He was incredibly honest, with the most beautiful quick wit and a wicked sense of humour. I loved sharing a joke with Duncan. Although softly spoken, he certainly knew how to stir up those opposite and I loved watching him do it. I will miss his excellent contributions in this House.

We are all worse off due to the loss of Duncan Pegg. He will be sorely missed and was taken far too young. Rest in peace. Vale, my good friend and colleague Duncan Pegg.