



Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### Hall, Mr B

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (9.30 pm): I rise to pay tribute to Brian Hall, a long-serving Ipswich Labor Party member who passed away at the age of 84 on 26 May after a short but brutal battle with cancer. Brian was a true believer in every sense of the word. He devoted decades of his life to community service and the local labour movement. I was proud to know him as a friend, mentor and supporter.

People like Brian do not come along very often. He certainly made an impact on many people's lives through his generous spirit and willingness to lend a hand. Brian was a proud life member of the Labor Party and a fellow branch member of the Ipswich central branch. Anyone who has worked on an election campaign in Ipswich will have known Brian as one of the hardest working volunteers on the campaign trail. His energy was boundless. He erected thousands of election signs over the years for various Labor candidates. Even at the age of 81 he was erecting signs for my 2017 campaign, outpacing, much to their deep distress, the much younger men helping him. He was also a reliable booth worker on election days, handing out how-to-vote cards at the Trinity Uniting Church hall at North Booval and winning lots of Labor votes.

Many people also knew Brian as a strong union man. He joined the CFMMEU at the age of 19, holding several positions and later becoming a life member. He was a president of the Ipswich Trades Hall and Labour Day Committee and was an important figure in helping to organise the Ipswich Labour Day march every year. Brian's commitment to the labour movement in Ipswich was formidable. He played a key role in establishing the Ipswich Workers Club and making sure the Ipswich Trades Hall stayed in the centre of the Ipswich CBD after the old one was demolished in the 1980s to make way for the Nicholas Street mall.

In Brian's eulogy his children Debbie and Ross attributed their father's involvement in the ALP and the union as stemming from his strong sense of social justice, fairness, equity and protecting the rights of anyone who might be vulnerable. I can certainly attest to that. I am sure others can, too. In recognition of his decades of service and achievements, Brian was awarded Ipswich Citizen of the Year in 2015—a well-deserved honour for Brian, recognising his incredible energy and hard work.

Brian packed so much into his remarkable life. He was a life member of the National Servicemen's Association, having served as a Nasho in 1954. He was a member of the Ipswich ambulance committee and served as its president for 17 years. He was instrumental in helping Ipswich East State School to get a swimming pool, which gave thousands of students the opportunity to learn how to swim. He was a man of faith, regularly attending Trinity Uniting Church in North Booval.

Only a few weeks before Brian passed away, the Ipswich Labour Day Committee, along with the CFMMEU, held a tribute dinner for Brian to personally thank him for his extraordinary contribution. It was a celebration of a life well lived. I loved Brian. I miss him dearly. I send my sympathy to his loving wife, Glenda; to his children, Debbie, Ross, Sharon and Peter; and to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Vale, Brian.