




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Parkinson's Disease, Fundraising Walk

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.27 pm): Eighteen and a half thousand Queenslanders live with Parkinson's disease. My mother is one of them, and before he passed away my father was also one of them. It is a progressive neurological disease. The symptoms include the loss of the ability to walk, speak and eat. Often it results in quite significant pain for people as well as problems with memory, sleep and depression. I have seen all of that in my mother and I saw most of it in my late father. It is pretty hard to watch when it is someone you love.

My parents were both very active in the community. They were very active in St Peter's Catholic Church at Coolum. They were the mainstays of the St Vincent de Paul Society. They loved their choir. Once a month at their first Friday picnic group they would gather with their friends. They were great bowlers in their time, winning a couple of second or third pennants of some description and they loved their long walks on Coolum Beach—and who wouldn't? It is really hard to see people lose their ability. When you lose the ability to speak you also lose the ability to sing. Some of my fondest memories of my parents were of Mum and Dad around the piano. Mum would play and she and Dad would sing together.

The only real solution is research. Parkinson's Queensland do a really great job of advocating on behalf of people with Parkinson's, but to do research you need money. 2020 was a really tough year for fundraising. Parkinson's Queensland has launched the 'This is Parkinson's' campaign. They have asked people to challenge themselves to do something that pushes them a bit to raise money. My brother Vince and I put our heads together and we have decided that we will take a really big walk for Parkinson's. We are going to walk from my house in Greenslopes to my mother's place in Coolum Beach. We will start on Easter Saturday. Over nine days we will be walking around 270 kilometres, which will be about 30 kilometres a day. We are taking the scenic route. We are not going up the M1.

An honourable member: That is probably sensible.

Mr KELLY: It is probably a sensible thing. The nice thing is that my two sisters and three of my other brothers will join us as we march into Coolum. Everyone is welcome to participate. All members of parliament are very welcome to participate. We will be having a parliamentary drop-in for Parkinson's Queensland next sitting. It would be great to see members there. Of course, people can make donations and those who are interested can even join the walk.

As many do, I play hard in here. Most of us play hard in here. I give as good as I get; I would like to think that I probably give better than I get. Parkinson's does not care what colour is on your corflute. It does not care what your political views are. It will strike anyone at anytime. I was really pleased when the member for Glass House reached out. He has his own journey with Parkinson's. He has offered to join the walk for three days. That means a lot to me. It is greatly appreciated. I appreciate everything that everyone has done so far to support the walk. We can beat this with research. I hope that one day nobody else has to have the Parkinson's journey that my family has had.