




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.52 pm): I would like to start by acknowledging my sister Angela and my nephew Ben who are in the gallery tonight. Ben is here because he won one of the Premier's Anzac awards last year. What could be better than going on a tour of Anzac Cove and the battlefields of the Western Front? Coming to parliament and watching your uncle give a speech! What a wonderful back-up prize that is for young Ben! What a treat the parliament has delivered for him this afternoon. I think he will well understand the famous Otto von Bismarck quote 'Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made' after this afternoon's efforts.

I know this is meant to be an address-in-reply to the Governor's speech, but I feel I would like to use the time I have this afternoon to reply to the member for Stretton's speech—an amazing, magnificent speech that shows the true character of the member. I feel like the member has been a part of the entire journey of my time in the Labor Party. I have been involved in the Labor movement a little longer than the member for Stretton, having a few years on him, but my time in the Labor Party has always been marked by much contact and great friendship with the member for Stretton.

Starting out fairly early on in the piece when I would go to party functions, not having come up through the Young Labor system, it was probably pretty obvious to a lot of people that this was not my natural environment. The member for Stretton, as he is so good at doing, was able to connect with me and make me feel welcome and help me understand what is often a very complex and very difficult situation. We both shared the experience of the sting of the electorate in 2012 at different levels of government. While we were running for different levels of government as candidates in the same party we often had contact with each other at campaign training, campaign events and also fundraisers, et cetera. On many occasions we worked together to get elected to the state conference of the Labor Party as well. There was much contact there.

It was a great privilege and honour to be elected together in 2015. If I found the Labor Party confusing, I would have to say I found parliament to be even more confusing. Once again the member for Stretton on many occasions helped me to understand things here that I found difficult and confusing. Although he lashed those on the opposite side of the House when he was on his feet—there would be no-one who would deny that—I think we can all agree that outside of this House he was a charmer and a gentleman. I will come back to that in a minute. I always appreciated that he worked hard to have good relationships with as many people as he possibly could. Sometimes he was the person who reached out to those people to whom no-one else was reaching out. One memory sticks in my mind quite clearly. The former member for Bundamba, at a point where she was none too popular with the members on this side of the House, or, might I say, on that side of the House—

**Mr Minnikin:** We've always loved her!

**Mr KELLY:** I know you have always loved her. Let the record show that. At a time when the member may have felt isolated and dehumanised, the member for Stretton brought a birthday cake into our floor of parliament and rounded up everybody to sing happy birthday, share cake and have a cup

of tea. That memory has stuck with me because it is important that we rise above our political differences, whether they are on that side of the House or on this side of the House. That was an important lesson to have learned.

We shared a journey together to become chairs of committees. I actually took over the member for Stretton's agriculture committee and he gave me a great deal of assistance and advice as I moved into that role in the parliament. I also followed him into the Ethics Committee, which was another environment that I found incredibly confusing. The member for Mermaid Beach will agree with that. While he would never have sought to seek any information around the Ethics Committee, certainly his general advice and guidance was always greatly appreciated.

I will come back to the member for Stretton as a charmer. Part of his treatment has been sourced where my wife works and so I have a great many friends who have cared for the member for Stretton. They all tell me how much they look forward to looking after him. There are a couple of political junkies there. They always say to me, 'When the member for Stretton gives a speech make sure you get a copy of it and circulate it. We see him here and he is a charming, affable fellow who is facing the challenges that many people that we care for in this profession face, but we want to see what he is like when he is plying his trade as a member of parliament.' I have endeavoured to pass those speeches along.

As a nurse who has worked in cancer care, and as someone who is married to a nurse who has worked in that field for three decades, it is always a challenge for people who are diagnosed and then face cancer. There is little that you can say to comfort them and unless you have been there you cannot understand that yourself. I try to encourage people to take each day as it comes, to remain strong, to maintain good relationships with your family and friends and to try to always maintain hope and a sense of humour. I know the member for Stretton is capable of all of that. He has great family and friends around him and I wish him all the best as he moves forward.