




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Lovell, Ms S; International Nurses Day

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.28 pm): I start by acknowledging Sarah Lovell, who is in the gallery tonight. She is here for the small business function. Sarah runs a fantastic small business in my electorate, making sure that all women, no matter their circumstances, have access to high-quality hairdressing services. Thank you, Sarah.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr KELLY: We will go into that later. I will not give away my hair secrets. I want to talk about something important, which is that today is International Nurses Day. It is a very happy day indeed. I start by acknowledging the growing number of First Nations nurses and midwives. I also give a shout-out to all midwives for last week's International Day of the Midwives. My grandmother was a nurse. My mother trained to be a nurse but unfortunately did not finish because at that time the rules meant that when women married they had to leave their occupation. My sister, Chris, is a nurse; my cousin, Leonie, is a nurse; my wife, Susan, is a nurse; and my niece, Bridget Kelly, will soon be joining the profession. You could say that I am very much surrounded by nursing and nurses. Today is a happy day for me and it was great to have so many nurses in the chamber. Unfortunately, it is not a happy day for many nurses and other health workers around the world.

We have the latest figures reported by Amnesty International via Al Jazeera. As at the beginning of March, the number now stands at 17,000. That is right: 17,000 health workers have died as a result of caring for people with COVID-19. We know that those numbers are under-reported, because many governments are simply not reporting that. We know that the majority of those health workers will be nurses. Those nurses and their families sadly will not be celebrating International Nurses Day this year or again, and that is such a tragedy.

When this pandemic is done—and it will be done—I will certainly be trying to work with people in my community, the government and the mighty Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union to make sure that we have an appropriate memorial for those people. They did not sign up to die; they went to work to care for other people and to make people healthy.

Five years ago today in this very chamber, we were the fourth place in the world to pass safe nurse-to-patient and midwife-to-patient ratios. There has been a study published in *The Lancet* released today that proves that safe ratios save lives. It is indeed a happy day. It is indeed a great day when we can now point to peer reviewed, credible research and say with great certainty that the legislation that we passed in this House is saving lives. Ratios save lives. Happy International Nurses Day.