



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 September 2021

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

### Pegg, Mr D

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.28 pm): Firstly, I want to offer my sincere condolences to Duncan's family. I had the great privilege of being the first government member to speak after Duncan's final magnificent speech in this parliament. I think I had the chance then to say many of the things that I wanted to say. I was only going to provide one anecdote tonight, but the speeches here have shaken a few more memories out of me.

It seems Duncan was a member of many clubs. It has been good to hear about the 'square bear club' and what was the other club?

**Ms Boyd:** Champagne.

**Mr KELLY:** Yes. It is a shame the member for Lytton has stepped out of the chamber, because there was a late-night club that happened on level 11 where all three of us had the pleasure of sharing the foldaway beds that you get when you do not get a bedroom.

If we put a name on that club, we would call it the 'Whatever was Leftover Club'. Often Joan and I were cleaning our teeth, in our pyjamas, ready to hit the hay—as sensible older people do—and Duncan would come back from one of the other clubs and say, 'It's a bit early, don't you think?' Given it was two or three in the morning, no, I did not think so. Joan, being mother to both of us, would run off and get a mountain of snacks that you could not believe would fit into one room but which Duncan and I would demolish. Then Duncan would come back with an absolute array of different drinks: dregs of whiskies from various Asian countries, little bits of bottles of wine and beer. We would always have a couple of drinks before we went to bed. But we did have standards. We did draw the line at the Lazy Bear that we got from the Taste of Bundaberg night. Sorry, most of what they do is good, but I am sure the Lazy Bear six-pack still sits up there on level 11! Believe it or not, there was another club after our club, but Joan and I certainly did not go to that club. I probably should leave it there! You would have to talk to the former member for Cook about that club and go to the casino. I am sure it was a good club as well.

The last time I tried to catch up with Duncan individually, sadly, did not occur. He was coming over for one of his many treatments at Greenslopes Hospital—very close to home—and we had arranged to try and catch up for a coffee, but the day did not go the way he was hoping. We both fairly much knew that the chances of doing that again would be pretty slim, but he rang or texted me probably more than five times over the course of that day to make sure that I was all right. I think that just shows the measure of the man.

I wanted to share an anecdote tonight to demonstrate a really important part of Duncan's character. When I took over from Duncan as the chair of the agriculture committee, we were finishing up a report on fencing. He was absolutely insistent that I thank the public servants with whom he had spent a few days travelling around remote parts of Western Queensland. I made sure I put that into the speech. Then he wanted to know when the speech would be given. We were on different rosters, so he

made sure he was there for the speech. I gave the speech and dutifully thanked those public servants. He interjected just at that point, so when you go back and read the transcript, he actually gets to thank the public servants! I have no doubt that he sent my speech to those public servants with his words of thanks highlighted. It says a lot about him. He not only genuinely appreciated people but also went to great lengths to let them know that he genuinely appreciated them. I saw that over and over again at various community events and things I attended in his electorate. I saw it here a million times.

I know that he was very thankful to all of the nursing, medical and other health workers who cared for him. I know this for a fact because my wife was one of them. I think he would want us to formally acknowledge and thank all of those health workers from the floor of this parliament. I do that on Duncan's behalf, just as I thanked those other public servants.

I will finish with a few words perhaps of comfort for the family from a famous singer from the United States, Warren Zevon, who wrote a song for his loved ones just before he died of cancer—

Shadows are falling and I'm running out of breath

Keep me in your heart for a while

If I leave you, it doesn't mean I love you any less

Keep me in your heart for a while.

Rest in peace, mate.