



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2021

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Greenslopes Electorate; Coronavirus, Vaccination**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.30 pm): I am proud to stand in this chamber as part of a government—one of only a few in the world—that can announce that after a pandemic we have 90,000 more jobs than we had before the pandemic and an unemployment rate hovering around the five per cent mark. We have not achieved that by accident. That is something that has been achieved by hard work, diligence, careful planning and attention to detail. I congratulate the Premier, Treasurer, Deputy Premier, every minister and every single member on this side of the House for backing in jobs.

I want to talk about how we have achieved these things. It is about the path out of COVID and the path to COVID recovery. We have done it in a number of ways. We have invested in infrastructure. We build things. We build more than just one building for ourselves across the road. We build things in every community. In my community that means new classrooms and playgrounds in schools like Nursery Road State Special School, Holland Park State School and Whites Hill State College. It means building transport infrastructure like the Veloway which is getting people home safer. It means building sporting infrastructure like we are doing at Easts.

It means backing small businesses. I was so pleased to see Orange Maple Properties and World Wellness Group in Stones Corner last week receive Business Boost grants and Social Enterprise Growth Grants. Do members know what that means? It means more jobs in Stones Corner. It also means training people. Career Employment Australia and Vision Australia once again received Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs. It was great to see the Institute of Culinary Excellence receive their first Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. I congratulate the mighty Alison Taafe and her team for putting in for that program and being successful. I know that they will turn out many great workers whom we desperately need across the hospitality industry.

It means working to expand the economy. That is exactly what we have done. The advanced manufacturing partnership we have with Rheinmetall is creating jobs in Ipswich. When we create a job in Ipswich or create a job anywhere in Queensland we create a job in Greenslopes. There is the clean energy work we are doing and the recent announcement that Fortescue is investing in hydrogen which will create jobs into the future. Underpinning that will be the expanded resources industry that we need.

In the film and television industry we have the TV studios at Hemmant. This is creating many employment opportunities in—

**Ms Pease:** Hollywood in Hemmant.

**Mr KELLY:** Hollywood in Hemmant. I take that interjection. We know that not all industries are doing things easily so we have to have targeted assistance. That is what the government has done through the Holiday Dollars program. This is COVID recovery—infrastructure investment, backing small business, training people, expanding industry and targeted assistance. This is how we have more jobs after a pandemic. This is how we lower unemployment.

I now turn my attention to rebutting some of the nonsense about vaccination being said in the community. Malala, Martin Luther King, Archbishop Romero, Nelson Mandela, Emma Miller, Peter Lalor and Eddie Mabo—these are the names that come to mind when I think of a freedom fighter. I will tell members one name that does not come to my mind—that is, the self-proclaimed freedom fighter, the member for Mirani. He does nothing but peddle misinformation and nonsense in the community that is damaging and dangerous.

He wants to talk about choice. Let us talk about the choice that the 120,000 nurses, doctors and other health workers around the world made to go to work to care for people with a disease that we did not understand and then did not go home. Let us talk about their choice. He wants to talk about freedom. What freedom do those 120,000 people who perished as a result of caring for people with COVID-19 enjoy now? I will tell members what freedoms their families have. They have the freedom to mourn and the freedom to grieve.

The member keeps mumbling about people who have been harmed by vaccinations. No health professional denies that people are injured or even killed by vaccinations. There are risks associated with every single medical procedure. We need to balance those risks. The risk of widespread death from virus and microbial infection is well known and well documented and far outstrips the risk from vaccination. I assume the member uses Panadol. Guess what? It is a risky medication that has caused death. Would the member want a general aesthetic if he were having an operation? I reckon he probably would. Guess what? The risk of dying from a general aesthetic is much greater than having a vaccination.

The member is misguided and wilfully ignorant. He is no freedom fighter. To take that title is an insult to every man and woman who has served our country to defend our democracy. I call on the member to stop peddling misinformation and withdraw these nonsense statements in the community. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government is working to keep all Queenslanders safe.

*(Time expired)*