




Speech By
Amy MacMahon

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2022

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Fouras, Hon. D, AM

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (9.50 am): I would like to share my condolences on the passing of Demetrios ‘Jim’ Fouras and pass on my sympathies to his family on behalf of the people of South Brisbane and on behalf of the Queensland Greens. I never got to meet Jim Fouras, but his immense legacy runs like a thread through my life. I grew up in the seat of Ashgrove where Mr Fouras was the member from 1989 to 2006 and I now proudly represent the seat of South Brisbane where Mr Fouras was the member from 1977 to 1986.

Mr Fouras’s time in politics was vast and he devoted his energy to housing, youth homelessness, development and planning and immigration, taking a keen interest in the impacts of Expo 88 and the welfare of the community. He spoke passionately about the need to care for vulnerable children and children in out-of-home care. Between 1986 and 1989 he served as a senior consultant to the federal government’s Human Rights Commission inquiry into homeless children. He was quoted talking about people on welfare, single mothers and pensioners and the need for community housing.

On Expo 88 Jim was a proponent of accountability and transparency as the city prepared for the iconic Expo under the Joh Bjelke-Petersen administration. Jim said during a parliamentary debate in August 1983—

I wish to deal now with the Expo proposals that are seriously affecting my electorate. I am extremely concerned about a number of the points covered by the Expo decision.

...

If these projects are to cost the people money, the Government should come clean about it. It should say how it will compensate those people who will lose. This Expo proposal has been shrouded in secrecy.

I want to share some words from Mr Fouras’s valedictory speech which captures his love for South Brisbane and the people there. He said—

Mr Speaker, as it is my last day of service in this Parliament I would take the opportunity to say a few words. It has been a wonderful experience representing the people of South Brisbane over the last nine years. The electorate of South Brisbane is the most cosmopolitan electorate in the whole of Queensland. It consists of people who are vibrant and vital and they are the friendliest people in this whole State. I have been privileged to serve them.

I think that legacy continues in South Brisbane thanks to the incredible work of Jim Fouras. Vale, Jim Fouras.