




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Southern Downs Electorate; Shaw, Mr R

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.25 pm): Tonight I rise to offer an explanation to the electors of Southern Downs as to why they have heard from me but have not seen me much over the past couple of months. I am very pleased to inform the House that on 6 December my wife gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Amelia Grace Barbara Lister. I thank members on all sides of the House for the generosity of their congratulations over the past couple of weeks, particularly the member for Mount Ommaney who we know is paired this week. She gave me a lovely muslin swaddling cloth to give to Amelia, which is wonderful. I have maintained my work in the office but I have not been out and about.

I also take this opportunity to sincerely thank my family for their support at this time. I have three kids now: Jeremy who is aged 11, William who is about to turn eight and Amelia who is 11 weeks old. Looking after them is my wife, Belinda. With a local member of parliament as a husband she takes on the vast majority of the workload in keeping our family together because more often than not I am in a motel in Millmerran, Bungunya, Allora or somewhere similar or I am down here at parliament. It is no small thing to have a small baby and two rowdy boys to look after at the same time.

Mrs Gerber: It takes a village.

Mr LISTER: It does take a village; I take that interjection from the member for Currumbin. I express my great gratitude to and love for my wife, Belinda, for the wonderful job that she does. She could still be in the Air Force but decided, instead, to be a mum and a great support to me in the electorate of Southern Downs.

I thank those constituents who have lent help and given us gifts, particularly Carol Clark and Esther Plath who have babysat at short notice and my own parents who live in Stanthorpe. I thank my mum and dad, Jenny and Paul—particularly my mum. Belinda's mum and dad have also been down. In fact, it has been great to have June Powell come down to help out. She has come all the way from Townsville on three different occasions, which has been wonderful.

Lastly, I refer to the statement today by our good friend, Ryan Shaw, who was the LNP candidate in the federal seat of Lilley. Members are probably aware that he made a statement today that he is pulling out of his candidacy to look after his mental health and his family. I take my hat off to him. That is a difficult decision to face. I think that by taking that decision and publicly acknowledging that he needs help, he has shown true leadership. I wish him very well and I am sure I speak for all members in doing so.