




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Small Steps 4 Hannah; International Nurses Day

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.58 pm): The Speaker has approved that I wear this shirt. I purchased it at a fundraiser on the weekend run by the mighty Holland Park Hawks Football Club to raise money for the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation. I would like to thank them for doing that. On the day Hannah Clarke and her children were murdered on their way to school on Raven Street in Camp Hill, a huge hole was torn in the fabric of our community, but it was nothing compared to the pain endured by her family. I did not know if and how our community would recover. I certainly did not know how her family would recover. Hannah's parents, Sue and Lloyd Clarke, have led the recovery in our community. They have campaigned quietly, humbly and with determination to see coercive control recognised as a form of domestic violence and outlawed.

I thank the women's justice task force for their report on this matter and thank the Attorney-General and the Premier for the announcement that this parliament will legislate to ban coercive control. The Clarks are strong and giving people. They have inspired many in our community to continue to say 'not now, not ever' to domestic violence. This action will bring much healing in our community.

Today is International Nurses Day. Last Thursday was International Day of the Midwife. I pay tribute to all my professional colleagues who continue to work every day to keep people healthy, get them better when they are sick and comfort them when there is no cure. I also pay tribute to the midwives who bring babies into the world and keep mums safe. Sadly, over the last 2½ years globally we have lost 118,000 health workers who cared for people with COVID-19. The majority of these people who died would have been nurses. Can anyone name one other occupation or industry that has endured such a loss in peacetime? I am sad that this is not more widely understood in the community or reported in the media. Perhaps this is a gendered issue, because we know the majority of these 118,000 people would have been women.

Today I spoke with my good friend Beth Mohle from the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union. We have both often discussed that there is a need for Queenslanders to stand up and raise a memorial to these selfless workers who perished in the service of other people. We believe the time has come to start working towards establishing such a memorial, not just for the nurses but for the doctors, the allied health professionals, the pathologists, the pathology staff, the admin officers, the support staff, the wardies, the security guards and all the other health workers who have died as a result of caring for people with COVID-19. I will work with anyone who wants to raise a memorial and Beth has committed the QNMU to this task. Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers as we rightly celebrate International Nurses Day.