



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Special Disability Trusts

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.15 pm): Many people think that parliamentary privilege involves the opportunity to stand in this place and say what you like, but I have always felt that the greatest privilege of being a member of parliament is the opportunity you get to listen to so many different people in the community and learn about their life and journey. One of the challenges of being involved in representative democracy is that you cannot possibly know everyone's story and you cannot appreciate their experiences. I am not a single parent. I am not a First Nations person. I have never owned a small business. I am not a teen who is transgender. All of those people have come to me, shared their stories. I have listened. They have asked for help and hopefully I have given them that help.

In my first speech to this place I made reference to young people with disabilities when I was volunteering and working with them. At that stage I was around their age. I noticed they wanted the same things I wanted in life: friends, a partner, a job, fun, hobbies. As I have gotten older and now have kids of my own I reflect on what I think their parents would have wanted for their kids. I think anybody wants the same things for their kids whether they have a disability or do not have a disability. They want their kids to be happy and healthy. They want their kids to have some sort of purpose in life, a vocation or a job. They definitely want their kids to have nice relationships with friends and possibly a partner. They would love them to pursue their hobbies and interests and perhaps their spiritual values or their political values, if that is what they are interested in. I think all parents want for economic security and the chance for their kids to have a better life.

I was so pleased yesterday when we passed the SPER bill. Chris Meimaris came to see me about his daughter Jessica's situation. Jessica has an intellectual disability. She relies on a special disability trust to give her economic security and dignity in life. Unfortunately the special disability trust, which is set up by the federal government, interacts with land tax at the state level and effectively rendered their trust ineffective. I took that issue to the Treasurer and I was so pleased that the Treasurer recognised how significant this was for a small number of people in our state and acted on this matter. I am pleased with the passing of that bill so that people like Jessica are able to live their life with economic security and dignity. I am really pleased that her family are able to now have that surety that their daughter and their sister can move forward in life and have that stream of income that gives them that dignity that would, in Jessica's situation, otherwise be difficult to obtain.

I think that is the real parliamentary privilege that I am sure every member in this House feels at times: that opportunity to listen to people, the opportunity to share and understand their journey and, most importantly, the opportunity to help people.