




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.49 pm): It has been a fiery afternoon and I want to try and bring a little bit of peace and Olympic spirit and Paralympic spirit to the events. I want to talk about what the Olympics and the Paralympics are going to mean for our community, and I am not just talking about those of us who will ride the 175 and 174 bus down Logan Road to get to the Olympics; I am talking about the whole community of Brisbane, the whole community of Queensland and the whole community of Australia.

To illustrate what the Olympics will mean for our community, I want to tell the story of Alison and Steve Taafe, who run a social enterprise and business in my electorate but live in the electorate of Chatsworth. Alison is a chef who trained in London. Fairly soon after she got her qualifications, she was living the life in New York working for wealthy families and cooking for the rich and famous having a ball. Where else would a 20-year-old want to be but in New York City rubbing shoulders with the glitterati for a few years? I will tell members where else she wanted to be: she wanted to come to Brisbane to take part in Expo 88, and that is exactly what she did. While she was here, she fell in love with Steve, her husband, and she also fell in love with Brisbane and Australia and has been here ever since.

This individual has gone on to be a leading teacher at TAFE, instilling her love of the hospitality industry in so many young people. With her husband, Steve, she has set up a number of successful hospitality businesses and most recently over the last six or seven years has set up the Institute of Culinary Excellence in Coorparoo. If you talk to Alison she will tell you that on any good day she needs her head read because she was already pretty busy, but she decided that she would also start a social enterprise. Now with the help of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, she is working with people who are recovering from domestic violence abuse, recent refugees, people with intellectual disabilities and people who have mental health issues and recovering from those. She is not just teaching them how to work in the hospitality industry but teaching them how to love working in the hospitality industry. Every now and then I bump into a couple of those people, and I bump into them right here at the parliament because they are now working in Parliament House Catering Services. Every time I see those people, it reminds me how important the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program is.

I have to ask this question of the House: if not for Expo 88, would we have the wonderful people like Alison and Steve Taafe in our state contributing so much? Sadly, not everybody is on board with the Olympics and the Paralympics. There are people out there who want to run this wonderful event down. Just in this House alone we have heard the Katters and the Greens running this event down. I hear people in the community parroting things that the Katters and the Greens have said, such as why are we spending \$2 billion for a two-week event? I say to them that the Olympics is so much more than just a two-week event.

I could talk about all of the benefits that the KPMG report identified—the \$8.1 billion worth of economic benefits for Queensland or the \$17.6 billion worth of benefits that will flow nationally. I could talk about all of the significant social benefits that will be derived from the games—the health benefits, the volunteering, the civic pride, the social cohesion. I even hope by 2032 we have gone down the pathway to treaty. I hope that is what we get to by 2032. I could talk about all of those things. I could talk about the positive environmental impacts where our energy and jobs program by 2032 will be a long way down the pathway to moving our community to clean and renewable energy. I could talk about the jobs that the report mentions, but I would rather stay focused on Alison and Steve Taafe because it is these little stories that will make up the big story.

This government has worked hard not just to invest in this two-week event—and I acknowledge that we have worked with other levels of government—but to invest in this event for the next 40 to 60 years. We have put Brisbane and we have put Queensland on the map. I say to those naysayers: think about where we are in 2022 from where we were in 1988. We are still reaping the benefits from 1988. In 2066 what are the stories that we are going to be hearing? What are the Alison and Steve Taafe stories that are going to be told in 2066? How many benefits are going to accrue to our community? That is why people should stop asking questions about where we should spend our money. The reality is we have demonstrated time and time again that when we invest in our state—when we back ourselves with things like the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games—we build our community. We will be investing in these games not just for two weeks but for the next 40 years.