




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

ADJOURNMENT

McCracken, Mr M

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (6.22 pm): I rise to pay tribute to the life of Matt McCracken, a giant in the Morayfield state electorate and a great advocate for people with disability. Matt passed away at the end of last month. He will be sadly and sorely missed not only by people in the Morayfield state electorate but also by people around Australia and people in the disability sector.

I have known Matt for over 15 years. He was a good person. Every fibre of his being was about standing up and speaking up for people with disability. He was instrumental in the Every Australian Counts campaign in 2011 which led to the introduction by a Labor government of the NDIS. He had this great gift of being able to get into photos with people who would go on to do great things, just like Matt did great things. Some of the favourite photos he had were of him with Annastacia Palaszczuk when she was the disabilities minister during the Bligh government and also Julia Gillard when she was prime minister.

Matt was very proud of his advocacy. His advocacy was not just at a national level; it was also locally on behalf of people with disability. He was the founder of the Caboolture Disability Support Network, an organisation that advocated for people with disability, helped them navigate the NDIS and supported them—gave them information and the knowledge they needed—to get the best for family and friends and people with disability. Matt was also on the board of the Queensland Disability Network, QDN, and was a strong advocate in the community.

Matt was also the founder of an event called Is Everybody Here, which was meant to raise awareness for people with disability and the broader community. One of the last events that I hosted with Matt was a truth-telling experience for people with disability at Lee Street Special School. It was all about those people's experience with the NDIS. It was heartbreaking, because under the current federal government those experiences are terrible. A lot of people who are trying to access the NDIS are finding it so difficult to navigate. A lot of people who are accessing the NDIS are having their hearts broken by having their plans cut and their funding cut and by having all sorts of bureaucratic nonsense impact their lives. Matt had a service this week that many people attended. I am sad that I could not join those people. At the end they all said, 'Let's get rid of this federal government so Matt's legacy can live on.'