




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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ADJOURNMENT

Workers Memorial Day; Labour Day

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (7.22 pm): Every year that I can, I attend Workers Memorial Day. We take time to pause, reflect and remember workers who have lost their lives at work and those who are injured, unable to return to work. We remember those workers who also suffer from work related illnesses such as mesothelioma, asbestosis and black lung, and workers who due to workplace events sadly find it all too much and take their own lives. It is also about the families who have to deal with the results of this death and injury.

Workers Memorial Day is an international event that occurs on 28 April every year. It was great to see a lot of my colleagues come along to show support. Over 50 workers so far this year have left home for their shift, gone off to work and not come home. It is utterly unacceptable. I am proud to be part of a government that has introduced workplace manslaughter legislation—a government that does not compromise when it comes to workplace health and safety.

The mighty trade union movement fights hard every day for workplace safety and conditions. Sadly, it is something those opposite just do not seem to get. We do get it. That is why we work with worker representative groups as well as business: we know it is the only way to lower workplace incidents.

I encourage everyone in this place to take the time next year to attend Workers Memorial Day so that together we can hear from the families and friends of those who have died at work. Maybe some day we can attend this service and have a celebration of no workplace deaths rather than a memorial. We must always remember the dead until then and fight like hell for the living.

Speaking of the mighty trade union movement, the weather was kind for our celebration of Labour Day on Monday, 2 May. The numbers were huge. I am sure that part of it was a show of support for a potential federal Albanese Labor government in the near future as well as disgust with the current LNP mob and their rorts and failings at, well, just about everything. It is always good to celebrate May Day in May, where it should always be. The LNP tried to destroy our history and squash our celebration of the fight for the eight-hour day when it cancelled Labour Day in 2013. We put it back where it belongs, and we on this side of the chamber will always fight and stand up for Queensland workers.

Labour Day is special to me as a proud member of the best union in the trade union movement, the mighty Electrical Trades Union, and as a member of the Australian Labor Party. I was just checking to see who is awake! Our party was founded in the 1890s to fight for better rights at work. It is what drove me to become a union member, a delegate and then a representative in this place. This day is a celebration of what the labour movement has achieved. That is why it has so much meaning to all of us on this side of the House. Sadly, I think time has beaten us. We cannot all join in a verse of *Solidarity Forever*.