



Speech By  
**Adrian Tantari**


**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Hervey Bay Electorate; Tracey, Mr J**

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.46 pm): I wish to update the House on the progress of a couple of projects being delivered in the Hervey Bay electorate. I was recently advised that our new health facilities—the \$36 million mental health unit and the \$40 million expansion of the hospital—are progressing well, even with some supply line issues. The new 22-bed mental health acute inpatient unit is nearing completion alongside the hospital's emergency department building. When complete, this facility will provide support to those most in need with mental health issues when they present to the Hervey Bay hospital, with its location enhancing the management of patients who present with these conditions.

With the Hervey Bay Hospital expansion, preliminary work has been progressing and is moving to the next phase of the project. The expansion will bring an additional 35 beds, with 25 new inpatient and 10 ICU beds when complete. These works will not only improve and upgrade our hospital but also continue to provide good jobs and inject money into our local economy. This is a great win for my community. I am proud to be a part of a Palaszczuk Labor government that is delivering new health infrastructure and services to the Hervey Bay community.

I want to place on record my condolences to the family of one of my region's great community members, Mr John Tracey. John passed away on 5 May at the age of 86 after a lifetime of community service. John was a man of faith. He was a teacher, a school principal and a lifelong volunteer at many community organisations including the Hervey Bay State Emergency Service. In recognition of that commitment, the Hervey Bay community honoured John with an Australia Day Local Citizen of the Year Award. John was also a comrade, with his membership spanning many decades. This saw him honoured with life membership of our great Australian Labor Party—a personal milestone that he was enormously proud of.

John was one of those who we called locally called 'the originals'. He was there at the start of the Hervey Bay branch in the 1980s with the former member for Hervey Bay, Bill Nunn. John served the party in numerous positions and was with us through every state and federal election. He last handed out how-to-vote cards at polling booths in my 2022 campaign. I knew John for a period of around 20 years. When I arrived in Hervey Bay, John was one of the first individuals to put his hand out to welcome me to the Hervey Bay family. He was quick to provide advice on the lay of the land in the branch and in the region. John and I went on to fight many battles together and, as John would say, 'took on the Tories head-on', but he always did it with respect and as a total gentleman.

John was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Above all, John was just a decent bloke who did his best in the time he was with us and gave so much to his community. To John's loving wife, Lesley, and to his children Robert, Cathy, Michael, Chris, Helen and Peter, I send my condolences for your loss. I will miss you, John, and I thank you for your service and your sage advice. The world is poorer without you. Vale, John Tracey. It is your time to rest now, mate.