



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Lynch, Ms H; Ukraine**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.59 pm): After a career which spanned four decades, much of it working in oncology and palliative care nursing, Helen Lynch was taken far too early by cancer. She was until very recently a dearly loved member of the nursing staff at Greenslopes Private Hospital's wards 31 and 22. Her colleagues pay her the highest tribute a nurse can receive, by nominating her as the person they would want to care for them if they were sick. I pass on my sincere condolences to her husband, Carl, and her family in the UK.

After two years of treatment, most of it in the hospital in which she worked, there are just too many people to thank, but I would like to thank my wife, Susan, and her friend Liz who cared for their dear friend Helen until the end and, as nurses do, continued that care beyond death. I would like to thank the staff of wards 31 and 22 and all of the GPH nurses who cared for Helen. I would like to thank Liz and the cancer care coordinators. I would like to thank Michelle and the staff of the Cyril Gilbert day unit. I would like to thank Dr Pretoria Bilinski and the medical team. I would like to thank Petra and the chaplaincy team and the CEO, Chris Went, and the management who have all done so much to make Helen's passing easier. I will miss her cheeky northern English accent cheerily greeting me whenever I call the ward.

Tomorrow marks a year since the full-blown invasion of the Ukraine. It is a fight that has been going on for nine years but escalated a year ago, and we should not forget that innocent Australians lost their lives on Malaysia Airlines flight 17. This is a fight for peace and democracy. Like all members of this House, I value democracy as a way to maintain a peaceful and civil society based on the rule of law applied equally to all citizens. I rang the President of the Ukrainian Community of Queensland, Peter Bongiorno, early on the morning of 25 February last year. He told me there would be a rally a week later for peace. My first thought was that it would be too late. I am so glad I was completely wrong.

The Ukrainian people have valiantly defended their homelands and their way of life. I really do not believe the majority of Russian people support this war, but sadly they live in a dictatorship which makes resistance dangerous, if not deadly. Peter and his team of volunteers have been supporting over a thousand Ukrainian displaced persons and I particularly want to note the hard work of Adam, Mikalya and Natalia, just to name a few, who not only support refugees here but have family in the Ukraine whom they still care for and worry about.

The Ukrainian community is particularly grateful for the support given by our Premier and the Queensland government. We were the first state to offer fee-free quarantine, fee-free schooling for Ukrainian children, the first state to offer free emergency health care and we donated \$500,000 to the Ukrainian crisis appeal—the first state to do so. I pay tribute to all those Ukrainians who have lost their lives in defence of their country, but I particularly note that my thoughts are with the civilians such as those six people who were killed standing at a bus stop this week. With ongoing support from countries around the globe, Ukraine will successfully defend peace and democracy. Slava Ukraini!