



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Workers' Memorial Day; May Day**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.56 pm): Recently we once again had our annual Workers' Memorial Day where we take time to pause, reflect and remember workers who have lost their lives at work and those who are injured and unable to return to work. This happens every year on 28 April. This year I was joined by my colleague, friend and neighbour Chris Whiting MP, the member for Bancroft. At the event we also remember those workers who have come down with and 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.

Over 21 workers so far this year have sadly gone off to work and not made it home, and this number does not include work related suicides. The mighty trade union movement fights hard every day for workplace safety and conditions, yet sadly that is something that some opposite in this place just do not get. We do get it, and that is why we work with worker representative groups as well as businesses because we know that that is the only way to try to curb workplace incidents.

This year for the first time in my memory—I do not know if it has happened before—we were joined by the Police Union and police officers who have had, as we all know, a recent tragic event rock their world, and they were more than welcome and their pain was also felt.

As always, I encourage everyone in this place to take the time next year to attend Workers' Memorial Day so we can all hear the tragic stories from the families and friends of those who have died at work. I still hold hope for a day when we can have a celebration of no workplace deaths rather than a memorial. We must always remember the dead and fight like hell for the living.

Speaking of the trade union movement, we had a great day on Monday, 1 May at the annual May Day March where I marched with my union, the mighty Electrical Trades Union, known to many in this place who are very fond of it, like me. It still feels great to have May Day back in May. The LNP shifted this day and I feel great pride every year that we put it back where it belongs.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr KING:** I can hear some people opposite who do not support workers. I cannot see them, but I can hear them. It was great to be joined by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and I sincerely hope that he comes along as Prime Minister for many more years. The mighty Australian Labor Party was founded in the 1890s by workers who wanted better rights at work, and this day—May Day—is a celebration of what the Labor movement has achieved and why it has so much meaning to all of us on this side of the House. I do not have the time left to break into a stanza of *Solidarity Forever*, so I will leave it there.