



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

### Powell, Mr N, OAM

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (7.03 pm): I rise to acknowledge the contribution of Noel Powell OAM and his passing. I want to pass on my sincere condolences to Noel's family. Noel was a man who was loved by his community and, more importantly, by his family. Noel Powell OAM was born in 1946 and passed away at the age of 76. He was the sixth of nine children who grew up in a two-bedroom house in Kedron with a sleep-out—the house that his mother lived in until she passed away at the age of 101 years.

Noel attended Kedron State School, where he admitted that he was not the greatest or most interested scholar. He finished his schooling at the end of grade 6 and went out and got a full-time job. Despite only going to grade 6, until the very end he prided himself on never needing to use a calculator and would be able to quickly add or subtract using a piece of paper and a pen that he was never without.

In 1968 Noel met the love of his life Judy, and they went on to share 54 years of marriage where they did everything together. Noel came from very humble beginnings yet still knew the importance of courtesy, manners, grooming, hard work, being a provider and protector, and to always give back. Above everything else, it was family first. 'Leave the woodpile higher for the next person' was his mantra. His words were always backed up by his actions. Despite a short stint when he was diagnosed with motor neuron disease, he never spent a day in hospital and was able to say goodbye to all of his friends and family on his terms.

Noel's favourite quote was, 'Community service and helping others is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on earth.' We believe he well and truly paid his rent many times over. There is no doubt that Noel had a huge heart that took in all of the Redcliffe peninsula. He loved his community and was driven to contribute to making it even better. Noel's service to the community through his work as a justice of the peace, member of the Rotary Club of Redcliffe City, chairman of the Redcliffe PCYC, Deputy Chairman of Regional Development Australia Moreton Bay, chairman of the Redcliffe City Council Community Plan Committee, and member of the committee that established the first Neighbourhood Watch group in Queensland shows a man not only dedicated to serving his community but also determined to change it for the better. He was a Paul Harris Fellow for Service holder, life member of the Redcliffe Leagues Club, Redcliffe Citizen of the Year, and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2015.

I want to thank Noel for his service. I also want to thank the Powell family: his wife Judy, sons Greg and Darren and his grandchildren for sharing Noel with us, for the culmination of many hours, days, weeks, months and years that he was not home because he was out making a difference for our community. I hope the family can take solace from knowing that Noel's dedication and service to his community is not likely to ever be repeated. His legacy will live on and his light will never be dimmed. Noel leaves behind the foundations for a brighter future built on his great deeds of the past. Rest in peace, Noel Powell.