




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Kelly and Carroll Family; War Veteran Support

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.09 pm): Will Kelly volunteered to serve in World War I, leaving Mareeba and his beloved future wife, Josie, to head to the other side of the world. There is a bit of contention over why he joined up, being of Irish extraction, but regardless he did his duty bravely. He served in Belgium and France. He was seriously wounded. He was lucky to survive the wound and the trip back home to Australia. He then married Josie with whom he raised nine children, including my father, Bill Kelly. Will again served in World War II but, due to his age, in a training capacity.

My grandparents' lives took them to many parts of Queensland such as Inglewood and Rockhampton and finally to Camp Hill, always serving the community, and the church was central to their shared lives.

Tom Carroll was a classic itinerant Queensland bush worker, being born, raised and roving over South-West Queensland before finally settling in Taroom with his wife, Dorie. They had three kids, one of whom was my mother, Patricia. Like Will, Tom was of Irish extraction and my mother told me that his politics were left of centre and, as such, he was not an enthusiastic entrant into World War II, but joined up when the Japanese attacked Australia. He served in Milne Bay, returned to Taroom to his beloved wife and children and one more child—Dom—arrived not long after the war. He served his community and church in so many ways and I think about him every time I pass the Taroom Hospital and the RSL. Will and Tom took massive risks and made huge sacrifices for our nation and so did their wives and kids.

On Anzac Day, I never forget nor take for granted the sacrifice and courage of people like my grandfathers, Will and Tom, nor of my uncles, cousins, nephews, friends and all the great men and women who have served our nation. I certainly do not forget my wife's great uncle Harley, who made the ultimate sacrifice and did not return from World War I. I stand in this place with the privilege of being able to honestly represent my community without fear. I never take democracy for granted. I know it has been won by courage, conviction and sacrifice. We are here because they served.

Remembering those who served is important, but supporting veterans who have returned is also essential. Greenslopes Private Hospital has always been at the centre of veterans' health in Queensland. The Gallipoli medical research centre is a dedicated, specialist health research centre for veterans that is funded, in large part, by the Ramsay foundation and Ramsay Health Care. I have advocated for many years for funding to support their research. I am so pleased to report that in last year's budget a veterans' health and welfare fund was established and GRMF has received funding to support research and the translation of research into practice.

In other good news, I have been working with Brendan Cox and Legacy Brisbane who are moving to Greenslopes. Our government is supporting the establishment of a veterans' health hub near the Greenslopes Private Hospital with \$3 million in funding. It will be a partnership between Legacy

Brisbane, Mates4Mates, Open Arms and RSL Queensland. They will work with the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation and the Keith Payne mental health unit at the Greenslopes Private Hospital. I know that this will make a big difference to the people who have defended not just our nation but our way of life, our values and, importantly, our democracy.