




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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ADJOURNMENT

Upton, Mr T

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (9.55 pm): I want to send a message to my darling Teddy Upton, who is currently in the Redland Hospital, and his beautiful wife, Linda. Teddy has terminal cancer and is about to embark on the voluntary assisted dying process. He has put up a massive fight. He has been a stalwart of our islands community. He is the most incredible artist. His sculptures in timber are a sight to behold. They are very visible as you arrive to Macleay Island.

I got to sit down with Teddy for about an hour and a half on Monday and we had a really long talk. We had a good discussion about voluntary assisted dying and his fears of what might lie ahead for people in his position if there were to be a change of government in October. He is absolutely terrified of what Amanda Stoker, the candidate for Oodgeroo, might instil in people here. He has asked me to send a very strong message to every single person in this chamber about the importance of voluntary assisted dying and providing somebody with the opportunity to pass with dignity on their own terms.

I hope that everybody who sits in this chamber hears this message from Teddy. Having a choice on how you pass with dignity when you are in extraordinarily excruciating pain is very important, and no single person in this chamber should be able to make that choice on behalf of somebody else. Teddy, Linda and the Macleay Island arts community: I am thinking of you every day. Teddy, I hope to visit you Friday afternoon to have another catch-up.

To the staff at Redland Hospital: Teddy cannot speak highly enough of the care you are giving him at the moment. It is absolutely incredible. When I see their candidate out there with the slick slogans that say 'Revive Redland Hospital'—it is just shameful, really. It is a sad, slick slogan when you see the care that is being delivered by the staff in that hospital. The work we have done in that hospital over recent years includes: the new intensive care unit, which opens early next year; an extra 38 beds; the lagoon ward; the 28 beds that opened in November; the new mental health crisis drop-in centre that opened earlier this year; the new \$150 million mental health facility that is on the drawing board at the moment; the expanded emergency department; and the improved maternity and birthing service for Redlands women. In the Redlands there has not been a government that has delivered more than this government for my community when it comes to health care. Slick slogans just do not cut the mustard.