



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2024

### **MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Flynn, Dr JG**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.49 am): As the current member for Toowoomba North, I would like to contribute to today's condolence motion for former member for Toowoomba North Dr John Flynn. I would like to start by paying my respects to the family and friends of Dr Flynn who join us in the gallery today.

Though Dr Flynn and I hail from different political backgrounds, we share a common commitment to serving and representing the people of Toowoomba North. Dr Flynn was born, raised and educated in Brisbane. After school, he attended the University of Queensland where, as we have heard, he began an engineering degree before switching to biochemistry and microbiology, earning a first-class honours degree. This is something we do not have in common. He later pursued medicine before becoming a general practitioner, which took him to Toowoomba in 1985. He bought into a practice with Dr John Morgan and moved there shortly before his son Tom was born. The two Johns bought a second practice at Wilsonton and John practised there until 1991.

When Dr John ran for the seat of Toowoomba North, his wife, Kelyn, became his campaign manager, which as many people here would know is a brave move to even put that request forward. She obviously did a fantastic job and, as we have heard, maybe more than she intended because he was successful by 374 votes. Unfortunately, I never had the opportunity to meet Dr Flynn but, after reading his maiden speech and having discussions with his family and friends this morning, he was committed to leaving the community better than when he arrived.

Dr Flynn was vocal in addressing the housing crisis that affected so many in our community at the time, especially the state of public housing in Harlaxton. He wanted to see adequate police resources and an enhancement in the educational infrastructure for Toowoomba North. One of his lasting achievements for the electorate of Toowoomba North was the commitment to build a new high school west of the city at Wilsonton, which is now Wilsonton State High School. That school's very large attendance shows that the community needed their own school, and his passion to get that school started was fully realised in my term serving here when it became a fully functioning high school.

His advocacy for health was unwavering, especially upgrading the facilities that we see standing today at the Baillie Henderson Hospital. Dr Flynn also championed the cause of regional development and decentralisation of decision-making, something I strongly agree with him on. As a strong local voice for his community, Dr Flynn understood that local voices make the most resonant decisions. Perhaps most importantly, Dr Flynn sought to foster unity and respect across all divides. His efforts to ensure every individual was treated with dignity and without discrimination are lessons that resonate deeply with us all today, regardless of our political stripes. Vale, Dr John Flynn.