



Speech By  
**Hon. David Crisafulli**  
**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2025

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Pitt, Hon. W, AM**



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.32 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Hon. Warren Pitt AM, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and minister of the state.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Today the House is paying its respect to the Hon. Warren Pitt AM. It was my honour to attend Warren's funeral in Cairns in February and to have been invited by the family to speak. Mr Pitt set a course, and he stuck to it, whatever obstacles he faced. Warren Pitt was born in Cairns on 14 March 1948. He attended state schools in Irvine Bank, Mt Isa, Cooroy and Charters Towers before completing a teaching certificate and a Bachelor of Educational Studies and a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Queensland. Warren started his teaching career in Ingham in 1969 and taught in the Queensland state primary and secondary school system for over 20 years. He undertook national service from 1967 and he served as a member of the Army Reserve from 1969 to 1975. A keen sportsman, he excelled at Rugby League, cricket, boxing, athletics and later, lawn bowls. So good a Rugby League player was Warren, he was one of the first players to receive payment for playing the sport in the Cairns competition.

In addition to playing sports, Warren also officiated at many of them for years as a referee and an umpire. He and wife Linda also appreciated the benefit of playing sport for young people. They contributed an extraordinary amount over the years to nurturing junior teams and sporting organisations in the Gordonvale area, while also leading many junior teams on sporting trips. It is a testament to Warren that he was granted life membership to numerous sporting organisations. He was named Mulgrave Shire Citizen of the Year in 1983.

Warren made his first tilt at election to this place in the seat of Mulgrave at the state election of November 1986. While he was unsuccessful on this occasion, he contested the seat again at the state election in December 1989 where he was successful in helping the ALP form government under Wayne Goss for the first time in over three decades. In his first speech in this place, Warren set out his principles as an elected representative in that he would promote the interests of all sectors of the Mulgrave electorate, irrespective of colour, creed or political persuasion, noting that to do otherwise would be to debase the system of parliamentary democracy, whose ideals we hold so dear. In February 1995, Warren was elevated to cabinet by the then premier Goss to serve as the minister for business, industry and regional development. His parliamentary career was to hit a hurdle, though. He was defeated in Mulgrave by the National Party's Naomi Wilson at the state election of July 1995. Determined to once

again represent his community, Warren contested Mulgrave at the state election in June 1998 and despite defeat, he returned following a by-election in December of the same year. As a consequence, Peter Beattie as premier was then able to govern with a majority of one.

Following the state election of February 2004, Warren returned to cabinet as the minister for communities and disability services. He would go on to serve in a series of ministerial portfolios until his retirement from this place in March 2009. As was noted by Warren's son and our former colleague Curtis at his funeral, Warren is the only person to have served in cabinet under premiers Wayne Goss, Peter Beattie and Anna Bligh. Warren Pitt was a man of integrity, fairness, resilience and wisdom. He was also a man of tremendous courage. After being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2005, Warren bravely battled and beat the condition while still conscientiously carrying out his ministerial and parliamentary duties.

In January 2016, Warren was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for significant services to the parliament through a range of ministerial responsibilities and indeed to his community. Whether as a teacher or a unionist, Warren Pitt was passionate about the Far North and its people. The list of local organisations with which he was involved was too long to repeat. I say with absolute conviction that the Queensland parliament, indeed every parliament, needs more members like Warren Pitt. Warren Pitt was a husband, a father and a grandfather. Whatever loss the political world feels, it pales into insignificance to the great loss his family suffers. I offer my condolences to Linda, to Curtis and to Dionne and their families. We thank them for allowing Warren to share time to us and to serve his community. Vale, Warren Pitt.