




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

MOTION

Member for Stafford

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.38 pm): My family and the family of the member for Stafford have been interconnected for five decades. My father and the member's uncle were members of the state executive of St Vincent de Paul and did amazing work setting up Ozanam House in this state. The member's family is well known in the area of Kedron and Stafford and the parish of the Little Flower Church, where my family was also well known until we moved to North Queensland. The member's family has always been very much connected to my family. I know that both my mother and my father thought very highly of the Sullivan family in general.

I have known the member, I would say, for 25-plus years. He worked with me at the Queensland Public Sector Union. He was an excellent and committed trade unionist who stood up for the rights of workers. I watched him develop his skills during his career as an associate for a judge and then assisting the members of the Labor Party to stand up to the excesses of the Newman government. All of that does not matter because I could have known the member for only five minutes. What does matter is the way we treat other people. I have listened to the speeches of the Premier of this state and he has talked over and over again about choosing hope over fear. How does this behaviour reflect those statements of choosing hope over fear? Those statements are hollow. They are hollow statements from a hollow man.

Multiple members of this parliament have sought leave—and I am sure I can speak to this with more authority than anybody in this chamber—including the former Speaker of this chamber, who rightly sought assistance and some help for some challenges that he was going through. He is a better person now for having done that. Yes, the member for Stafford went to court and those matters were dealt with. Those matters were dealt with. The member has acknowledged his problems and his challenges.

I have reached out to the member on many occasions. I was requested to do that by close friends of both the member and the family. I was requested to do that not in my capacity as a member of parliament but as someone who is a health professional because they were concerned for the member. I did that willingly and because of my long association and friendship with the member. I am pleased that he is getting the help that he needs.

The tactics that are being employed here are absolutely and utterly disgraceful. This is a return to the tactics of the Newman government and those members over there should hang their heads in shame. If anybody in this chamber believes that the member is not fit to sit in this chamber, there is a booklet of standing orders—which I note we did not get a copy of this time around, perhaps because of cutbacks—which outlines how you can deal with that. To simply move this motion shows that your government is bereft of ideas, bereft of new thinking after just 100 days.

Mr SPEAKER: You will make your comments through the chair, member for Greenslopes.

Mr J KELLY: After just 100 days, this government cannot come up with enough business to fill one parliamentary sitting week so they have to pursue ridiculous and baseless tactics of this nature. It is disgusting. It is disgraceful. They are all a disgrace to this parliament and they should hang their heads in shame.