




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.19 pm): Once again we hear the member for Southern Downs deliver the tired and worn-out arguments about pill testing that we heard when we had similar debates around the needle exchange program. It was good to hear the member talking about the Emu Swamp Dam and I wish him all the best in getting that built. When it is built, the member for Southern Downs is not going to get any carnations from over here; he will be able to grow his own carnations going forward.

It is always really touching to have the health minister and member for Clayfield showing such deep concern for my parliamentary career. Like most members, I am very pleased and humbled to have the opportunity to be here and to represent my community. I assure the member for Clayfield that, whatever role I play in this place, my first job will be to oppose him and everything he stands for, completely and utterly.

I congratulate the Speaker on his election to that august position. I wish him well in the tricky business of maintaining order and discipline in this at times unruly chamber.

During the election campaign, the Premier spent a lot of time talking about accountability and transparency and isn't he off to a great start? He has rammed through legislation to shut down the Path to Treaty, denying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other community members any chance to engage in normal consultation processes afforded to other community members. He has rammed through changes to workplace health and safety laws that will lead to injury and death for workers. He has misused parliamentary processes to stop members of this chamber from doing their job. We should all be able to debate and discuss any issue that we want—abortion or anything else—no matter how uncomfortable or difficult it is for the Premier. That freedom is at the very core and the purpose of this parliament.

The Premier has been getting his ministers to dodgy up figures to try to blame Labor for economic mismanagement. I suspect what they really want to do is lay the framework to repay their old mates at the QRC by slashing the progressive coal royalties, followed quickly by slashing Labor's investment in the infrastructure and services that Queenslanders need. We cannot wait for the Sangster report to confirm all of that. The Premier has shut down an FOI process that would have revealed the truth about SET Solutions, the company that clearly he was not capable of running. He has backflipped on his 'no new stadiums' promise. Now he is trying to appoint to the redistribution tribunal someone who would have a massive conflict of interest due to being a former very active Liberal Party member and an individual identified by no less than Fitzgerald as someone who was trying to frustrate his inquiry. I doubt most average people in my community would consider that to be acting in a manner that respects accountability or transparency.

I have also heard the Premier talking about choosing hope over fear. Again, isn't he off to a great start in that regard? He has pandered to the extreme Right by shutting down both the Path to Treaty and pill testing. I have spoken about the reaction of families in my community to the decision to restrict

services at the gender clinic. Does that demonstrate hope over fear? With a stellar start like this, I can only expect that the next four years are going to be a repeat of 1996 and 2012 when Queenslanders were promised much but delivered nothing.

We had a little taste of what nothing might look like in the opening speech to parliament that outlined the government's agenda. Every year I doorknock my community and during the past year I doorknocked every part of it over three times between April and October, for the election campaign. The No. 1 issue raised with me and my volunteers was the cost of living. I have gone through the opening address and one thing it was very weak on was the cost of living. The community welcomed our cost-of-living measures including energy rebates, 50 cent fares, free TAFE and free kindy. They will certainly be looking at this year's budget with great intent to see if any assistance is coming. I doubt my community will be overly interested in the Premier's and the LNP's broad, bland statements contained in the opening address to parliament. I make a commitment to my community that I will work with the Labor members on this side of the House to bring the blowtorch of accountability and transparency to this already rotting LNP government.

This is the fourth time I have been elected to represent the people of Greenslopes.

Ms Grace: Hear, hear!

Mr J KELLY: Thank you; I take that interjection. I love being congratulated. I am extremely thankful to the good people of Greenslopes for again putting their faith in me to represent them in this parliament.

Ms Grace: You did a great job.

Mr J KELLY: Thank you; I take that interjection too. Working for my community will always be my No. 1 priority. Of course, you do not win elections on your own and there are a number of people I wish to thank. I thank our office volunteers, Chris Anderson, Joan Bremner and Michelle Hollywood; our mid-week bus stop attendees, Paul Carroll, Ken Thorpe and Gen Philips; our Saturday morning street stall legends, Barb Ewers, Barry Cosgrove, Rod Harris, Peter Nibbs, Charlie and Alex; the army of people who dropped flyers in letterboxes; the sign site set-up crew, Mark Wockner, Adam Fritz and Ian 'Chappo' Chapman; and the people who have had signs on their houses are too many to thank by name.

I say muchas gracias to the 'Latinos for Joe' crew of Cesar, Alberto Jr, Marcella, Angie, Julio, Eduardo and Edith who helped me throughout the campaign. I thank all of the doorknockers, particularly Chris Clarke, Haye Butler Dupuy, Alex Caddie, Xavier Wiatrowski, Shauna Turner-Smith, Liam Hesleltine, Ed Uzelin and Chris Rhodes. I thank all of our booth captains, pre-poll workers, election-day workers and scrutineers, in particular Brian Merrin, Sagie Pillai and Yvonne Darlington. I thank our election-day flying squad as well as Bernard Malik and the food crew. I thank all of the people who donated to my campaign, particularly Chris Meimaris. Of course I thank the mighty Greenslopes branch and Alicia Wiederman, Matt Campbell and Patrick Hanlon who lead that branch.

My extended family, as always, came to assist me with my campaign. This time my brothers Peter, Paul and Vince, my sister Angie, her husband, Lee, and my nephew Ben helped on the day. My sister Chris and brother Bill sent lots of support but could not be there on the day. I thank my friends of many years—a lifetime really—who came to help me on the day: Danny; Ange; Killian, Matilda and Katy Keenan; Sagie Pillai; Peter Rooney; and Andy Elphinstone.

It would be very remiss of me not to thank my good friends in the union movement—the Australian Workers' Union; the SDA; the TWU; the RTBU, particularly Phoebe Kelly; my own union, the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union; and the Queensland Independent Education Union. I thank the party office staff who helped out, Kate Flanders, Zac Beers, Hayden Sheppard and Ben Coates. I am deeply appreciative of their help. Of course, I thank my amazing electorate office staff, Claudia, Matilda, Kayla and Callun. I thank my campaign managers, Jordan Ayton and Brooke Wilson, who did a great job.

We all know of the massive impact this job, this calling, this career, this vocation—whatever you want to call it—has on your family. Therefore, I particularly want to thank my wife, Susan, and my daughters, Molly and Brenna, who were there with me every step of the way. I take a moment to acknowledge the passing of my mother-in-law, Nola Adams. She was a wonderful part of our family and the community. We miss her deeply. She hung on just long enough to vote for me one more time. We are very saddened by her passing. In case I missed anybody in that list of thank yous, you also have my sincere thanks.

Building community has always been my prime motivation for seeking to represent the community. You do that by listening to your community and working to deliver what they tell you will build community. That is things such as more parkland for Mount Gravatt; funding for upgrades to pools, schools and the veterans health hub; funding for every sporting club and school in my electorate; improving cycling safety; and building more public housing. You do it by celebrating with your community, which is why every year we run the Seville Road State School Family Fun Day and we work with groups such as Mark Joe Hope Music and the Holland Park Girl Guides. We run community networking nights and health professional networking nights. We bring together small businesses and community groups to build community.

I love working with Cath and Dave Twomey who run the Coorparoo Christmas carols. I know the *Courier-Mail* has been making a list of members of parliament who perform music, sing et cetera. I am putting them on my naughty list because I have been writing a Christmas carol every year for the past five years and I did not even get a look in. I am devastated. I have almost enough carols to put out a Christmas album. Look out, member for Maroochydore; I am coming.

We celebrate community by going to lots of fetes such as those at Marshall Road, Mount Carmel, St Joachims, St James and Holland Park State School. We all know that a big part of building your community is comforting your community. Working with the amazing Sue and Lloyd Clarke over the past four years, after the terrible and tragic murder of their daughter and grandkids, has been particularly special. We come together every year thanks to the really great work of the Holland Park, Mount Gravatt and Coorparoo RSL branches for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. For me, it is very special to stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian Community of Queensland thanks to the leadership of their president, Peter Bongiorno.

You build community by working nonstop as a volunteer as I do with Victor Scouts, Holland Park Lions and the Coorparoo School of Arts. There are too many great people in our community to thank all of them, but here are a few more who deserve a mention: Johnny Godwin from Inspiring Brighter Futures; Sharon Flannery from the Holland Park Hawks; David Waldie from Easts Rugby Union; Nola Duncan from the Metro District Netball Association; Zac Grenich from Brisbane Metro Touch Association; Stephanie Ford and the team from Norman Creek Catchment Committee; Michael and Karen Weibler from the Our Stones Corner team and Books@Stones; as well as Sarah Lavelle and Braam Du Toit, my friends from the Greenslopes Neighbourhood Watch.

Our community has been built by our amazing volunteers at our P&Cs, our P&Fs, our local sporting clubs, our Meals on Wheels hubs, our Lions clubs, our Scouts, our Girl Guides and our churches. I will certainly work hard over the next four years to help these groups promote volunteering in our community.

I listened to my community, and the commitments I made at the election reflect the things that the community told me we need. We need more investment in local schools, like creating the capacity for growth at Greenslopes State School because it is growing. We need to upgrade the school pools because they are all very old. We need to keep cyclists safer by building that overpass at Birdwood Road. We need to create more parkland in Stones Corner and Mount Gravatt. We need to build more social housing. We need to invest in our local sporting clubs, like Easts Rugby Union, which is Australia's biggest and best Rugby club. We need a new police station at Stones Corner. I will be working hard to deliver on these commitments and continue the great work our government did investing in my community.

The last time the LNP were in power my electorate got nothing, and they even had an LNP member in the seat! I would go as far as to say they got less than nothing. They were promised a hall at Cavendish Road but it was taken away and given to The Gap State High School by none other than Campbell Newman. Our schools and sporting clubs got nothing and we did not get any police facilities, cycling infrastructure or public housing.

I was proud to be part of a government that created jobs, that built things that our community needed, that took real action on climate change, that worked to reduce domestic violence and that provided real leadership to people and families around cost of living. When parties lose an election, they had better listen to the people or they will spend a long time on this side of the House. I think we got a lot of things right but, clearly, we have to acknowledge there were key issues that people in Queensland felt we were not getting right.

The people of Queensland are concerned about crime, victims of crime and community safety. They are concerned about housing and want to deliver a world-class Olympic Games. We will certainly listen to the people of Queensland and we will present policies to address these issues going forward

and address the new issues as they inevitably come up. The LNP have made big promises in all of these areas, and every member on this side of the House will be working hard to hold the government to account for these promises.

I will turn now to my shadow assistant ministry portfolio. I am hugely honoured to have been given the opportunity to assist in the health portfolio. I have already visited several areas of our state and I will continue to work with the shadow health minister, the member for Miller, to engage with and listen to patients and health workers. There are some issues in health that I am passionate about. I want to: restore our faith in vaccinations; improve palliative care; prevent bias against people with disabilities; strengthen primary care; ensure health professionals work to their full scope of practice; ensure the mental health levy is rolled out effectively; protect and enhance safe patient-to-nursing and midwifery ratios; improve veterans' health; reduce the impact of addictive substances, particularly on young people; and get much better services for people impacted by progressive neurological diseases, particularly Parkinson's disease.

The LNP have also made some big commitments in the health area in relation to ramping and maternity care. I will be working with every member on this side of the House to hold the LNP accountable in health. The first few months have not been that great. There have been cuts to the rural health workforce attraction scheme, hours reduced at regional nurse-led clinics and games played with much of the health infrastructure. We have seen pill testing on the chopping block. We have seen a review ordered into the practices of gender clinics.

It has not been all about cuts, though. The government have found \$200,000 to rename satellite hospitals. If that is what they care about, I do not know how they can take themselves seriously. Frankly, the linguistic gymnastics I have heard on this are truly surreal. If this is your big-ticket priority, it will be a long four years for Queenslanders with not much improvement to health services. What is next? Will we rename the cat hospital on Creek Road in case someone mistakenly goes there? Is the Doll and Teddy Hospital in Stones Corner next on the LNP's hit list? Seriously! What is this nonsense? The cuts we have already seen are a worry for Queensland.

If you want to fix ramping, you build more hospital beds. That is what was happening, and I hope we do not see any more cuts to those programs. I will do all I can to make sure Queenslanders get the best health care possible.

I know I have had a bit of a dig here today at the LNP, but it would not be right to let our one remaining Greens MP off the hook. I love my Rugby League. In my lifetime I have seen some classic examples of players celebrating a try before they put the ball down. Perhaps I have even done a little bit of that myself in my glorious, lengthy and illustrious Rugby League career. When it comes to that sort of behaviour, the Greens would make the run-on side for Australia. In fact, they would make the team of the century. They were not even on the field of play, let alone anywhere near the tryline, when they were claiming victory in Greenslopes and nine other seats.

Once again, their behaviour at the polling booth in my electorate was appalling. They showed they were prepared to tell outright lies about me to try to win. Didn't that work out well for them! It was nice to have the Greens candidate for Hinchinbrook and several other seats spend their whole two weeks at the Greenslopes pre-poll voting centre. I am not sure how many voters from Hinchinbrook came through Greenslopes, but I reckon if I were running for Hinchinbrook I would actually want to visit during the election period, or at least be able to find it on the map. It would be remiss of me not to congratulate the KAP and the member for Hinchinbrook for fending off yet another brutal attack from the Greens in the seat of Hinchinbrook.

The other feedback I got frequently during my campaign was how sick and tired voters were of being harassed by Greens volunteers. We all knock on doors. I do not want to be the one to break it to the Greens, but they did not invent doorknocking. People from every political party have been doing doorknocking for as long as I can remember, and there are some people in this chamber who are older than me who probably remember even further back than I do. We all knock on doors, but our party does not use hard-sell tactics to stick the foot in the door and dominate the time of a constituent. One of the most shameful things that was reported to me was of vulnerable relatives being preyed on by the Greens and being hard sold to. There was also the game of putting signs on houses they did not have permission to put them on—we know they did that because we caught them out.

There you have it. Apparently, they do politics very differently. They certainly do it differently from me. They harass voters. They lie. They prey on vulnerable people. They have dodgy yard sign practices.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Greenslopes, you have just used an unparliamentary term. I ask you to withdraw, please.

Mr J KELLY: I withdraw. Let's move beyond the negativity of the Greens. I will finish where I began: with my community. It is truly a great community and I am very honoured to represent it. I work hard for our community and I am so pleased to have been part of this community for nearly 30 years. We are so blessed with so many great people in our community, in our community groups and in our small businesses who work together. It has been a truly wonderful place to raise a family with my wife. I have given this commitment before and I will give it again to the people of my community: I will work every day with you to build community.