




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2025

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Pitt, Hon. W, AM

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.11 am): It is a great honour to speak on this condolence motion. I pass on my condolences to Linda and the entire family. Perhaps I am not so much speaking on my own behalf, although I do have a lot of connections with Warren, but on behalf of the Greenslopes branch where Warren was a regular visitor due to his friendship with Gary Fenlon. On many occasions Warren was joined by Linda. Our branch was always happy to interrupt the business of the day, which at that time would have been plotting to get rid of the Howard government, and listen to all of the insights that Warren brought from country Queensland. It was a real way of connecting the city to the bush. That tradition has continued to this day and we do try to get regional members of parliament to our branch meetings.

Warren was a member of the class of '89 and, as such, was very revered in our branch. Our branch held the people who had achieved success in that election in extremely high esteem. At that stage, I think a lot of our branch members, myself included, really did not have a lot of interaction with many members of parliament and we put them on a very high pedestal. While Warren always gave us great insights into the issues of the day during his visits, people used to really connect with him because he had been a teacher and a Rugby League player. Some people contacted me recently to pass on their condolences to the family and one comment really stuck with me. Someone said that every time Warren came to our branch we would be amazed that this person, who had been part of the team that had achieved amazing success and who had a great parliamentary career, was such a normal human being. He was someone we could relate to and he was very generous with the time that he spent with our branch.

Many other people have more connections with Warren through his policies, his politics and his time in this place. My insights come more through my interactions and engagement with his children and his grandchildren. When Dionne and David moved to Brisbane, they lived on Juliette Street, a few blocks from my house. They were at the exact same stage of life as my wife and I. We had young kids aged from one through to five, so we had a lot of interactions and became fast friends. Of course, they joined our branch. Those bonds were built around children and our shared interest in politics, but what really connected us was our shared values. It was clear where those shared values came from. That focus on family, that focus on community and that focus on trying to have a fair society for everyone were things that really connected Sue and I with Dionne and David.

Curtis also joined our branch. He had a bit more hair back then. We could see straightaway that he was going places. He was an exceptionally talented young man. For me to suddenly find myself, several years later, in the position of working closely with Curtis as part of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker team was a huge privilege and something that I will take forward forever. As you would know, Mr Speaker, at times it can be lonely in the referee sheds. Curtis led a great team that included not just the Deputy Speaker but also the temporary speakers. He encouraged us to be there for each other on

the good days and the tough days. Curtis was a great parliamentarian in his own right and I think it is very clear that the values that he brought forward into this place had been instilled in him by Warren and Linda. With those few words, I again offer my sincere condolences to the entire family. Vale, Warren Pitt.