




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Greenslopes Electorate, Reconciliation Walk

 **Mr JKELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.12 pm): On a chilly Sunday morning, 27 July this year, over 80 people from my community gathered in Glindemann Park for the fourth annual reconciliation walk. This walk is organised each year by the Greenslopes Reconciliation Action Group, GRAG. GRAG exists to facilitate reconciliation that is being offered by First Nations people. It is a movement of local people from all walks of life and backgrounds—people who know that through embracing reconciliation our community and nation will be stronger, more cohesive and more peaceful. We also believe it will improve social outcomes for First Nations people, who continue to suffer significant disadvantage in all areas of life.

I thank Gary King from the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, who led the walk and provided insights and information on local flora, fauna and significant Indigenous sites. In the early years I would auspice the GRAG, but I am pleased to advise that it has started the process of incorporation, supported by Reconciliation Queensland. I would particularly like to thank the founding co-convenors, Karina Maxwell and Alicia Weideman. I also acknowledge Claudia, Judy, Johanna and Andrew, who are providing a huge amount of volunteer time and enthusiasm and are supported by many others in the community.

Perhaps one of the most satisfying aspects of the federal election for me was the complete and utter repudiation of the agenda that Peter Dutton was trying to set in relation to First Nations people. I believe that one of the key reasons for his electoral failure was the complete misreading of the outcome of the Voice referendum. I do not believe for one second that people who voted no in the referendum did so because they are racists. I sincerely believe that the political leadership of our country could not agree on a way forward, they could not explain what they were offering and people were unwilling to support the referendum under those circumstances. I think our reconciliation walk shows that the majority of Australians still want to walk as allies with First Nations people. Wherever I go around this great state I meet people who genuinely want better outcomes for First Nations people and want to walk with them as allies.

I think welcome to country and acknowledgement of country ceremonies are a great example of this. Nobody has mandated these ceremonies. They are not forced on anybody. They are not dictated by law. Instead, a majority of people and organisations participate in them willingly and in good spirit because they sense it is the right thing to do, it is the respectful thing to do, and because they are looking to walk as allies with First Nations people. Congratulations to all the volunteers who made this year's reconciliation walk possible. I look forward to walking with you and First Nations people in future years.