



Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2025

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.48 am): I just wanted to add a few words to this motion. Unfortunately, I never got to know Mark outside the context of parliament, which is a great sadness and a loss. I had the great pleasure of working with Mark on the health committee and on the Ethics Committee. In fact, we served an entire term on the Ethics Committee along with a really stable team: the members for Nudgee, Pine Rivers, Clayfield and Mermaid Beach. Queensland and his community have lost a true gentleman and a leader. Mark always debated hard, but he did it with dignity and respect. In the health committee, he was always open to discussing any and all policy ideas. I always had a sense that he had a genuine curiosity and drive to find the best policy outcomes.

As a relatively new member when we were on the health committee, he encouraged and supported me even though we were on different sides of the political fence. I always felt that he knew that this was a hard place, but it was a better place if we had good people here who were supported.

Mark would often continue policy discussions after the close of an official hearing. Our committee travelled quite frequently and these conversations often occurred in airport lounges, buses and at dinner—usually with him with a red wine and me with a beer. I never had a sense that he was attempting to score a point; he was genuinely exploring policy ideas and issues. He continued these discussions in the corridors whenever he had a chance. Perhaps it was that that led me to support one of his amendments and cross the floor, which is not an easy thing for a Labor member to do.

I always felt that he was a man who opted for conciliation rather than total victory. I suspect this played a part in his role in creating the LNP from two very different parties. I certainly saw his ability to bring people closer together in the Ethics Committee. He had an easy laugh, a sense of humour and a nonstop politeness and he treated people with respect and dignity. He used all of this to calm debates and put them back on track.

It may not surprise the House to learn that at times we had robust debates in the Ethics Committee. You may not be surprised to learn that sometimes, particularly the member for Pine Rivers and the member for Mermaid Beach, did not always see eye to eye and, without breaching confidence, on odd occasions inside voices were not used. In amongst the fray, a polite, quiet, reasoned voice would often bring us back together to the point of a reasonable debate.

Finally, we dealt with many big issues in the health committee. Mark was always looking for the best policy outcomes for Queensland, but he always couched every issue in terms of what it meant for his community. He was first and foremost always a great local member. Condolences to the family. Vale, Mark McArdle.