



Speech By  
**Bisma Asif**

**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 March 2026

## **MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Hollis, Mr RK**

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (2.18 pm): I also rise to speak on the motion of condolence for Raymond Hollis. Raymond Hollis was born in London on 30 January 1940 and came to Australia as a merchant seaman in 1962. Before entering politics, Ray worked as a railway worker, a farmhand, a gallery boy, a cook, a paper mill operator, a steward and in corrective services in Victoria. He also built his own transport and distribution business. Ray lived and worked in the real world, and that helped him be a better politician and ensured that his political career was one where he would meet Queenslanders and know the value of what they were going through.

In 1989 he was elected to this House as the member for Redcliffe—a seat he held for 16 years. He was known as a local member who was caring, accessible and, most importantly, genuine. Through reading some of Ray's speeches I discovered that he would hold regular mobile offices not out in his community but at his home so people would feel welcome. That tells you a lot about the type of politician Ray was.

In 1998 Ray was elected as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly—a position he held with distinction on two separate occasions. Those who knew him during that time as Speaker said he was a man who brought fairness and dignity to the chair and who took seriously the responsibility of upholding the standards of this place. Amongst his achievements as Speaker, Ray ensured that parliamentarians remained connected to the people they served. He was the first Speaker to present all members with a laptop computer and he facilitated the use of laptops in this chamber, which I know we appreciate today. As he put it, the parliament needed to keep up with technology so that members were well equipped to do their jobs. He also presided over the very first regional parliament, ensuring parliament would be brought to Queenslanders.

He was perhaps most proud of the Wall of Reconciliation. A parliamentary inquiry resulted in an act of immediate recognition and reconciliation with and of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the parliamentary precinct, leading to the launch of the Wall of Reconciliation in the Parliamentary Annexe on level 5. The first artwork to appear on the wall was *Celestial Gathering* by Ms Cynthia Vogler. Ray Hollis was instrumental in bringing that vision to fruition. Ray believed that parliament belonged to the people of Queensland and as Speaker he acted on that belief. During his first term he opened Parliament House to visitors on Sundays and then extended that in his second term to Saturdays, and today this building welcomes people from all walks of life from across Queensland on open days and students come here to visit this place. It is a lasting legacy of his time in the chair.

Those who knew Ray speak warmly of a man of principle and genuine commitment to his community and his family. I would like to acknowledge many family members whom I was able to meet today and who join us in the gallery: Ray's wife, Ju Fen; son Stephen; daughter-in-law Maribel; grandchildren Rogan and Chris; and niece Alice. I know that the House will join me in thanking Ray Hollis for his years of service to the people of Redcliffe and Queensland's democratic institution and in passing on our deepest condolences to his loving family. Vale, Ray Hollis.