

Monday 8 May 2017

## **Notre Dame graduate James Griffin elected as Member for Manly in NSW Government**

**The University of Notre Dame Australia congratulates Sydney Campus graduate, The Honourable James Griffin MP, on his successful election as the Member for Manly in the NSW State Government.**

The Bachelor of Arts graduate and past Deputy Mayor of Manly Council replaces former NSW Premier Mike Baird as the Manly Member of Parliament, who had held the position for close to 10 years.

In his maiden parliamentary speech, Mr Griffin thanked the Manly community for its support and said that he hoped to serve in his role with distinction. Mr Griffin also acknowledged Notre Dame for providing him with the foundation for thinking broadly and acting justly throughout his personal and professional life.

“I am grateful to The University of Notre Dame Australia. Notre Dame is unequivocally Catholic but welcoming of people of all faiths and of none at all,” Mr Griffin said.

“Notre Dame is an excellent university and I am proud to acknowledge two of my lecturers here tonight, Dr Peter Dean and Associate Professor John Rees. As Harold Garnett said: *‘The best teacher is...the one who kindles an inner fire, arouses moral enthusiasm, inspires the student with a vision of what he or she may become, and reveals the worth of permanency of moral and spiritual cultural values’*. Peter and John, you certainly did that.”

Associate Professor Rees, Discipline Head in Politics and International Relations at Notre Dame’s Sydney Campus, said it was a pleasure to teach Mr Griffin, who was part of the University’s first student intake in Sydney in 2006.

“People respect and follow James not simply for what he does but also for who he is. His many accomplishments present a consistent story of maturity and level-headed character that is sorely needed in our public life. His election to the NSW Parliament as the Member for Manly is to be celebrated,” Associate Professor Rees said.

Professor Hayden Ramsay, Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor at Notre Dame’s Sydney Campus, congratulated Mr Griffin on his achievement.

“James is a shining example of what a Notre Dame education delivers. I have no doubt that he will represent the Manly electorate and the broader community with humility, optimism and diligence to make a positive contribution as a Member of the NSW Parliament,” Professor Ramsay said.

**Ends**

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**Caption:** The Honourable James Griffin MP has been elected as the Member for Manly.



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