



Speech by  
**Mr TERRY SULLIVAN**  
MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE

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Hansard 14 September 1999

**EAST TIMOR**

**Mr SULLIVAN** (ChermSIDE—ALP) (10.17 a.m.): Last Saturday, the Brisbane City Hall was filled with people meeting in support of our colleagues in East Timor. Organised by Amnesty International and led by civic leaders—Jim Soorley, Archbishop Peter Hollingworth and Archbishop John Bathersby—more than 2,500 citizens of Brisbane shared the pain of people such as Joe Triexera as they heard of the suffering experienced by their colleagues in East Timor. Aid workers who had just returned from the horror of that place outlined in detail what they had seen and experienced. There was strong union representation at that meeting. When Grace Grace identified the efforts of the Queensland Nurses Union, the AWU, the Miscellaneous Workers Union, the MUA, the BLF and my union, the Queensland Independent Education Union, among others, there was resounding applause.

The applause was matched almost by deafening silence when on two occasions the more than 2,500 people remembered those who had suffered and died and who are still suffering and dying at the hands of the Indonesians and the militia. Federal politicians Kevin Rudd, Craig Emerson and Andrew Bartlett outlined possible plans of action. Those people have been involved in overseas work and in working with the United Nations. There are some positive steps that can be taken. Speakers at the rally congratulated the Federal Government on the positive steps it has taken and called on it to support the plan for peace, which has outlined measures such as economic boycotts, the removal of the billion-dollar aid package that Australia is planning for Indonesia and so on. There are steps that can be taken. We must help our East Timorese brothers and sisters.

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