



Speech by

Mr R. QUINN

MEMBER FOR ROBINA

Hansard 22 October 2002

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE
Bali, Terrorist Attack

Mr QUINN (Robina—Lib) (10.11 a.m.): I join with the Premier and Leader of the Opposition—indeed all honourable members—in expressing our sympathies to the families of all those affected by the terrible outrage in Bali on 12 October. This tragedy was felt across Australia and, indeed, across the world, with another 22 countries being directly affected. We have experienced the same terror, pain and sorrow that shocked the world on September 11 last year. This time, that terror struck Australia on its own doorstep. Our geographical position no longer means that we are isolated from the troubles of the world. Distance cannot protect us from those who wish to destroy our values and our way of life.

There can be no excuse for this cowardly, despicable act of murder, which resulted in the loss of so many lives—so many of them young people simply experiencing the exhilaration of life as only young people can, and indeed have a right to expect. In response, we must steely resolve to do all we can to track down those responsible and bring them to justice. Those who have suffered would expect no less of us. We must make sure that we provide the best of care for those injured during the incident and we must make sure that we strengthen our nation against those who would seek to repeat this foul act. They cannot be allowed to diminish our spirit, tolerance and openness. Our institutions that support democracy and freedom help us to make this the lucky country, but they also necessitate our constant vigilance against those who would cause such wilful destruction.

It is timely to also acknowledge the extreme bravery and selflessness displayed by those Australians who risked their lives to save others in the carnage. In this one wicked moment the mateship that is typical of the Australian character was again evident for others to admire. Our military and emergency services deserve praise for their rapid professional response, which lifted flagging spirits and undoubtedly saved many lives. They carried out the biggest peace-time medical airlift in this nation's history.

For those who have lost loved ones, I say we must join together in grieving and recognise that we as Australians should stand united in this time of sorrow. I cannot conceive the anguish being felt by those who have loved ones still missing. I pray that their minds will be put at ease in the days to come. It is important to remember that family and friends are the foundations of any nation. As such, an event like this reminds us all just how much we should cherish our own family and friends. It is essential that at this time we stand together, embrace the families of Australians and console them for the losses they have suffered.