



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Bali, Terrorist Attack

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (10.14 a.m.): On September 11 last year, members of this House passed a condolence motion for the victims of the attacks on the World Trade Centre that had occurred only a few short hours earlier. Those attacks have changed the world forever and opened our eyes to the destruction of terrorism and the importance of fighting this evil to prevent further attacks on our freedom.

Ten days ago, terrorism knocked on our own back door and recklessly and tragically took the lives of many young Australians who were enjoying a pastime thousands of Australians embark on each year—a holiday in Bali. I express my deepest sympathy to the families and other loved ones of the Australians who lost their lives or who are still unaccounted for. My heart and that of every honourable member goes out to all of them. Words cannot take away the pain and anguish these families and their friends currently face. The best we can offer is our support during what must be an extremely trying time.

One aspect of this tragic event which never ceases to amaze me is the great Australian spirit—the way our nation unites in times of trouble and need and offers assistance, even those who are in need themselves. The sentiment of this statement is best reflected by the young Australian victim of the Bali bombing who insisted that his mate receive medical treatment before he did despite the fact that he was suffering burns to more than 50 per cent of his body. That young Australian man is a victim of terrorism but he is also a hero.

In the wake of these tragic events, it is important that we do not lose these attributes that make all Australians a special breed. Now more than ever before there is a need to continue to work together to achieve a truly multicultural society. Unfortunately, there will be those in the community who make the assumption that the terrorist attacks both in the United States and in Bali are related to the Islamic faith and condemn followers of Islam. The truth is that the terrorist attacks are the work of murderers, not the work of any particular race, religion or nationality. As the Premier's parliamentary secretary, I urge the community to refrain from casting aspersions on any section of the community and to continue to show our Aussie spirit and unite in the fight against this evil, which threatens to undermine what we have always taken for granted—our freedom of choice, our democracy and our harmonious multicultural society.
