



Speech by

Hon. ANNA BLIGH

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Hansard Tuesday, 9 October 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Afghanistan, Death of Trooper David Pearce

Hon. AM BLIGH (South Brisbane—ALP) (Premier) (9.36 am): I know that the Leader of the Opposition and all members of the House will join with me this morning in expressing our sympathy to the family and friends of an Australian soldier killed in Afghanistan. The loss of any young life is a tragedy, but the loss of a young man in the service of his country is of special significance.

This morning an Australian family is mourning the death of a soldier serving in the Australian Defence Force in Afghanistan. This fallen soldier is the first Australian to be killed in direct enemy attacks in Afghanistan or Iraq.

The soldier, as yet not publicly identified, was one of almost 1,000 troops in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led ISAF. His death is a tragic reminder of the perils the men and women of our defence forces face. Our thoughts are with his family, his friends and his colleagues.

We also recognise those who are continuing their work protecting the engineers who are responsible for the reconstruction work in Afghanistan. Our thoughts also go out to the dead soldier's colleague who was wounded in the same attack. This is a tragic day for the Australian Defence Force and the families of our soldiers. They will all be in our thoughts today.