



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR INALA

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MUSIC VIVA; DEATH OF FATHER DAVID BEST

Ms PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (6.50 pm): Last week a great cultural event was held at the performing arts complex and I was very pleased to attend. Music Viva brought the choir of Westminster Abbey out to Australia for its first national tour. According to the Music Viva web site—

International tours by the choir are rare due to its daily liturgical responsibilities and its central role in the ceremonial life of Britain. The choir has played a prominent part in countless coronations, royal weddings and funerals and other state occasions with its glorious music.

It has a fine tradition of history with the choir dating back to the 14th century. Cultural exchanges between countries are very important and I encourage Music Viva to continue this tradition to encourage other musical groups to tour. Many people would not have had the opportunity to hear the choir of Westminster Abbey unless they had had the opportunity to visit London. It was therefore wonderful that the choir made Brisbane part of its Australian tour. It was an excellent performance. The choir played to a packed Concert Hall and I am sure that everyone who attended would join with me in thanking Music Viva for helping to bring the choir to Australia.

I am sad to report to the House the death of Father David Best, Reverend of St Hugh's Anglican Church in Inala. Father David Best dedicated his life to improving the lives of others. Last Thursday morning the church was overflowing with community members who came to pay tribute to a truly wonderful man.

Last year I went to visit Father David Best during the state election campaign. I remember we sat and spoke for a good 40 minutes about the Inala community and the daily struggles and hardships that people in my community face. A couple of months ago David contacted me about a family who was living out of their car at Inala Plaza. He said that we must do something to help them. They had been to see him and he was sending them to my office. We discussed at length the general housing crisis facing our community and the lack of federal government funding. Needless to say, during this conversation he was not happy at all with John Howard.

Many people were shocked by David's death. It was unexpected and it has left a great void in the Inala community. It will be hard for someone to fill David's shoes. I would like to thank all of the reverends who attended the service along with hundreds of locals, including the students of Forest Lake College. I would like to read into *Hansard* an extract of his eulogy given by the Reverend of St Peter's in South Dunedin. He stated—

David was much more sensitive and tenderhearted than he would perhaps have liked us to know, and at times he suffered acutely as a result, all the more perhaps because he usually preferred to attend to the troubles of others, rather than to his own. It is therefore all the more wonderful that despite his precarious health he so enjoyed these last years with Di and their children and grandchildren and was able to find such fulfilment in his cherished ministry as a priest.

Local resident Sue Lennan remarked on the passing of David—

He had a great sense of community. He strived to bring the whole community together to address the issues of the local area. A real doer, great to work with and a wonderful sense of humour.

Another local, Kath McDonough, said—

Father Best was a loving, caring and passionate man who cared about everyone and their problems, putting the needs of others ahead of his own.

This sums up Father David Best. He was always thinking of others. He was passionate about his ministry. He was there when people needed him most. He will be sadly missed.