




Speech by

Glen Elmes

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard Thursday, 16 February 2012

GOLINSKI, MR M

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (6.29 pm): In the early hours of the morning on Boxing Day, the people of the Noosa electorate suffered a grievous loss following the fire in Tewantin that took the lives of Matt Golinski's family: his beloved wife, Rachel, and his three little daughters, Sage, Willow and Starlia. This tragedy, of course, followed another horrific house fire in August of last year in which 11 people from the same family within the Samoan community were tragically killed in another devastating accident.

What adds to the overwhelming sadness is that Matt Golinski, who sustained third-degree burns to 40 per cent of his body after repeatedly trying to save his family, is only now very briefly drifting in and out of consciousness after being in an induced coma and does not yet know that his wife and three little daughters perished in the fire. In fact, the funerals have not yet been held and it is this, after all the time that has gone by, that Matt Golinski will have to face when he is well enough to do so.

As was the case with the house fire at Slacks Creek, the community of Noosa has rallied around the Golinski family with an outpouring of grief and concern that I have not witnessed before. I attended the community service conducted by the Reverend Mark Calder in Tewantin's Anglican Church, which is just around the corner from where the tragedy took place. On behalf of my community, I thank Reverend Calder, the Anglican Church congregation, and the police and emergency services personnel who attended and who explained to over 200 neighbours and community members present at the service the facts of the tragedy.

The three little girls attended Noosaville State School. It is a school that I know very well from my frequent visits to it. My own son attended Noosaville State School. I would like to thank the school's principal, Rob van den Heuwel, who spoke at the community service and who, with his excellent teaching staff and the P&C, organised for the pupils attending the school to be counselled in order to help them to understand and work through the tragedy.

Matt's business partners at the Rolling Dolmade are running an appeal for Matt, and many Noosa businesses and community groups—including Gaston Noosa, the Noosa North Shore Retreat and Slow Food Noosa—and many individuals have contributed substantial amounts, and further fundraisers are planned.

This is a tragedy that has a long way to go before it comes to its very sad conclusion. On behalf of the Noosa community, I offer our collective prayers and best wishes to Matt Golinski, his family, Rachel's family, and the friends of Willow, Sage and Starlia.