




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 6 August 2014

DEATH OF SOLDIER IN AFGHANISTAN

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): I wish to pay my respects and those of the opposition to Special Forces Soldier Lance Corporal Todd Chidgey who died on 1 July this year while on active duty in Afghanistan. He was merely 29 years old when he died, having been born in Gosford, New South Wales, in 1985. He joined the Australian Army in 2006 and after training was posted to what is now the 2nd Commando Regiment. He served six tours in Afghanistan ranging in duration from two weeks to six months. At the time of his death in a non-combat incident he was serving with a detachment. He and his fellow Special Forces soldiers were providing security protection for a senior Australian officer at Headquarters International Security Assistance Force Joint Command. Fellow soldiers in the 2nd Commando Regiment described Lance Corporal Chidgey as a loyal friend who was brilliant to know and work with. A statement issued by his mother and brother said, as quoted by the Premier, 'We will remember Todd as the consummate gentleman, a son and brother who was well mannered, loyal and always there for his family.' They also added, 'If you were his friend he'd stick by you and he was a champion of the underdog.' The Army itself described Lance Corporal Chidgey as a consummate professional and dedicated soldier. On behalf of the opposition I pass on our thoughts to Lance Corporal Chidgey's family, friends and fellow soldiers as well as our thanks and gratitude for his service to our nation.