



Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2014

## **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Kawana Electorate, Deaths**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.34 pm): It is with great sadness that I rise to acknowledge the tragic loss of four lives—three of them young children—on the Sunshine Coast at the weekend. Young Kawana mum Keisha Ann Jackson and three of her children—little Ryan, Joan and Matilda—died as a result of a car crash at Glenview on Friday. As a parent of children of a similar age, I cannot begin to imagine the immense grief and pain the family is suffering as they struggle to come to terms with such loss. As authorities continue to investigate the crash, my thoughts and prayers are with the family, especially Keisha's young son Ethan, the sole survivor of the accident, as he faces life without his mum, brothers and sisters. I know the Kawana community will rally around Ethan and his extended family during this difficult time. The Kawana community is a compassionate one in the face of tragedy. Sadly, it has been no stranger to tragedy in 2014.

Kawana mum and daughter Noelene and Yvana Bischoff passed away in Bali in January on what should have been an enjoyable family vacation. A memorial tree planted in their honour represents a lasting tribute to Noelene and Yvana and testament to Kawana's community spirit. Around the same time another local family lost their four-year-old son to drowning in a Kawana lake. With each of these tragedies we have seen an outpouring of love from Kawana residents and I have no doubt little Ethan will receive the support he needs not only from his family but the community at large.

My thoughts are also with the students and teaching staff at Kawana Waters State College. The school's flag flying at half-mast is a sombre tribute to the students and classmates whose lives were cut short as a result of Friday's crash. I thank Paul Williamson, the college director, for the strength and determination that he has had over the last few days in keeping the school community together in such difficult circumstances and Education Queensland for providing the counsellors for students and staff at Kawana Waters State College. In terms of any assistance that anyone else has needed, I know that Paul Williamson, the college director, and all of the teaching staff have been there at the forefront to offer that assistance without question.

At times like this there is often a feeling in our community of wanting to help in some way. My office has received inquiries from residents seeking advice on how they might be able to help the family following the weekend's tragedy. Keisha's family has asked that residents wanting to donate give money to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Those wishing to do so can visit the RBWH Foundation's website, [www.rbwhfoundation.com.au](http://www.rbwhfoundation.com.au). On behalf of the entire Kawana community, I extend my condolences to Keisha's family during this immensely difficult time. Whatever support the Kawana community can give Ethan, who has no mother and brothers and sisters left, we will give him.