




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 5 May 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Nepal, Natural Disaster

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (10.01 am): On behalf of the government and all Queenslanders, I extend my deepest condolences to the people of Nepal following the devastating earthquake that occurred on 25 April 2015. As a community, we have been shocked and saddened by the devastation that occurred. The thoughts and prayers of all Queenslanders go out to the families and friends of the victims and all those who have been affected by this tragedy. We think in particular of the many Australians who are still unaccounted for and also of the Nepalese community in Queensland for whom this is especially a difficult time. We look forward to having the Queenslanders who were stranded in Nepal home safely.

I am heartened to see the international community come together to help Nepal with the ongoing search and rescue of survivors and relief and recovery efforts. Australia's role and response in providing assistance to foreign countries following an international disaster is the responsibility of the Australian government. The assistance to date in response to this devastating event includes an immediate package of life-saving humanitarian support to Nepal and a financial donation of \$5 million to assist the efforts of Australian non-government organisations, our United Nations partners and the Australian Red Cross. I encourage all Queenslanders to get behind these efforts by making a donation to one of these organisations. As Queenslanders, we know that relief and recovery efforts in the wake of such a major disaster are a huge challenge. Queensland stands ready to assist if we are called on as part of the Australian government's response to this most terrible of disasters.