



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **MH17**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.35 am): For those of us in a lucky country like Australia, it is difficult to comprehend the circumstances that led to the death of 298 innocent people one year ago today. When MH17 jet was shot down over the Ukraine 12 months ago, right-minded people across the world were horrified. They were left to wonder how such tragedy could befall so many innocent people in such tragic circumstances.

These were holiday-makers returning home from the trip of a lifetime, loved ones travelling to see their families or people just going about their jobs who became victims of armed conflict through no fault of their own. The world was saddened and shocked. Australia was saddened and shocked. Queensland was saddened and shocked. People around the globe and around the country experienced the hurt, loss and confusion that comes with unexplainable death on such a large and inhumane scale.

In Queensland, those feelings of grief must have been much, much deeper for the families of the eight Queenslanders who lost their lives in this horrific and devastating tragedy. These were mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, wives, husbands, uncles, aunties, nephews, nieces and friends. They were taken from us too soon. Children were left without their mothers and fathers; mothers and fathers were left without their children—all because of a senseless act.

At the best of times, death of a loved one is extremely difficult for anyone to comprehend. When the lives of innocent people are so brutally and so suddenly cut short in such tragic circumstances, it must be almost impossible to comprehend. Pictures revealed in the media today and transcripts of what was said show the sheer tragedy and futility of these events. The pictures do not explain why it happened and, like many other Queenslanders and Australians, we pray for answers soon. Answers will not bring people back. I hope, however, answers will help give families closure. Today we remember eight Queenslanders as well as other Australians and citizens of other nations. We remember the children who have not been given a chance to grow up. We pay our respects to the families who have experienced inexplicable loss following such a senseless act.