



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Syrian Refugees**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (10.12 am): Last month I vowed that Queensland would never forget the haunting image of a small boy's body on a Turkish beach. Three-year-old Aylan Kurdi's death drove home to the world the desperation of Syrians as they fled the horror of their war-torn homeland. I spoke in this House of the need for a compassionate and generous response to the Syrian refugee crisis and I welcomed the federal government's announcement that 12,000 refugees from the region would be resettled in Australia.

In the weeks since, we have been working with refugee services to establish just how many of those 12,000 people could find homes in Queensland; how many people we could offer fresh hope and a new life. We had to be sure, as a government and a community, that we could offer the necessary support and services. Today I can report that I have written to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull advising him that Queensland stands willing and able to provide homes for 3,500 of those refugees. I always said that we would take our fair share, but this offer exceeds that. Typically Queensland would settle about 13 per cent of Australian humanitarian entrants. By offering to take up to 3,500 Syrian refugees Queensland is willing to accept 29 per cent of the refugees in this one-off intake. That is on top of our share of refugees from other countries. I have told the Prime Minister that we will continue to work with the federal government on the details of the resettlements to provide the best outcomes for these vulnerable people.

I have no doubt that Queenslanders will open their hearts to our newest arrivals. For generations Queensland has had a strong tradition of welcoming those fleeing wars and for generations those newest Queenslanders have contributed enormously to our rich multicultural community. The Syrian crisis has reminded me of the generosity of Queenslanders and I have been so proud of the warmth of the public's response. Together we stand ready to share the privilege we all have the luxury of taking for granted: the privilege of calling Queensland home.