




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palmer, Ms T

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): Like every Queenslander and everyone in this House, I have been left shocked, outraged and heartbroken at the death of 12-year-old schoolgirl Tiahleigh Palmer. For a little girl to vanish and then be found dead days later is extremely distressing, to say the least. The images of classmates, family and friends gathering to remember Tiahleigh on Sunday evening serve as a reminder of the very emotional impact this has had on those who knew her and the wider community.

I would like today to reassure Queenslanders and Tiahleigh's family and friends that we have police working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, around the clock, to bring the person or the people responsible to justice. No effort is being spared. Today I have written to the principal commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission seeking a whole-of-government systems review of arrangements in place for responding to missing or absconding children in out-of-home care. In addition, the Minister for Child Safety has requested her director-general urgently bring together the key stakeholders and peak agencies to discuss any concerns or suggestions they may also have.

As I said yesterday, there is not a person throughout our state who is not touched by what has happened to this little girl aged just 12 years—a little girl who was dropped off to school but never made it to school and never made it home.