




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Fabila, Mr T

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (9.15 pm): There are not too many musicians who play international and national festival stages one day and in schools, juvenile centres and prisons the next. But this is indeed what didjeribone player and Nudgee local Tjupurru does.

Tjupurru, a proud descendant of the Djabera Djabera tribe of the Western Australian Kimberleys, began playing the didgeridoo through a plastic vacuum cleaner pipe in boarding school. He began his career as a professional boxer, and a successful one, being awarded two national featherweight championships in Papua New Guinea and winner of the Oceania title in Western Samoa. In the 1970s he moved to Cairns and later Nudgee, and reconnected with his Western Australian Indigenous heritage.

Inspired by the iconic music of Australian act Gondwanaland and didgeridoo player Charlie McMahon, Tjupurru changed course and now travels the world playing and teaching others about the didjeribone—a cross between a didgeridoo and a trombone. The didjeribone is so named because it can slide through different notes and tones. Sound is picked up through a sensor implanted inside the mouth. With the addition of electronic effects, I can find no better description of the sound, for those members who have not had the opportunity to hear a didjeribone, than to describe it as a fusion of ancient Indigenous sound and tradition with modern technology.

Tjupurru was discovered at the Bigsound Festival in Brisbane in 2006. Since then his star has continued to rise—opening the Rhythm Festival at Woodford Folk Festival and performing in the Concert Hall at the Sydney Opera House, at Bluesfest and in the iconic House of Blues in West Hollywood. He has taken his unique sound to the world, with performances in the United States, Canada, Japan, Germany and India.

Tjupurru may travel the world and play large musical festivals but to the local community and I, he is simply Tjup, who lives a few streets away in Nudgee. When home Tjupurru and wife, Chris, are most likely to be found down at the Banyo Devils Rugby League Club watching their sons play Rugby League—Tjupurru is the volunteer club photographer—or at home entertaining a house full of visitors. Everyone is always welcome at the Fabila home.

A former board member of both Kurbingui Youth Development Ltd and Koobara Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kindy at Zillmere, both of which do wonderful work in my electorate, Tjupurru and his wife, Chris, also a board member of Koobara, are heavily invested in the local Indigenous community. They are often to be found working hard behind the barbecue at Kurbingui and Koobara events and supporting broader NAIDOC celebrations locally.

I had the opportunity to catch up with Tjupurru and his wife recently, during which time he kindly gave me a copy of his album *Golden Grove*. Unashamedly, my favourite track is No. 8 titled *Mount Nudgee*. Tjupurru's live performances and workshops in schools in my electorate and indeed across the country capture the minds of students and are introducing a new generation to the sounds of the didgeridoo. He is a role model to young Indigenous students and artists and believes that all sounds are free, and should be shared. It is a pleasure to rise in this House to celebrate local people doing extraordinary things in our community.