



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Orlando Shootings**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): On behalf of all members and the people of Queensland, I would like to express my sorrow and despair at the latest mass shooting in the United States. Forty-nine people are dead, many more are injured and countless family members and friends have had their lives changed forever, all because of an act of terror from one individual. Whatever that person's motivation, the specific targeting of one group of people simply because of their sexuality, race, gender or religious beliefs is abhorrent in the extreme. It highlights the sad fact that, despite it being 2016, there are some depraved individuals who still harbour hatred in their hearts for those different from themselves.

In times like these, it is up to community leaders such as us to lead by example, to prove that we live a society where tolerance and acceptance underpin the way we treat other people. To that end, I thank you, Mr Speaker, for your gesture of lighting up Parliament House tonight in rainbow colours. Not only does it show our support for the victims in Orlando; it shows that we stand in solidarity with the LGBTI community here at home.

Having just returned from the US, it goes without saying that the American people and Queenslanders share a strong and enduring friendship. We stand with them against violence. We stand with them against discrimination in all forms. We stand against acts of terror, whatever its motivations. Our hearts go out to those who have lost someone close to them through a senseless act of hatred.