




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Cox, Ms J

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.39 am): Mr Speaker, for the second time in a week I stand here before you in sadness and shock following an extreme act of violence on the other side of the world. The condolences of the government, the parliament and the people of Queensland go out to the family of British MP Jo Cox, our colleagues in the British parliament and the British people.

Any murder is horrific, but if early reports are true and it was motivated by politics it strikes at the very heart of the democratic ideals Britain, Australia and many other countries hold dear. As all members would agree, politics is robust. Ideas are debated forcefully and disagreements are common, but long gone are the days, especially in modern, dynamic democracies, where hard-fought debates and disagreements should turn into violence. In the same way Queensland has offered its support to the US in the wake of the Orlando shooting earlier this week, we also stand by the people of Great Britain in the wake of the tragedy. Here in Queensland we will honour Jo Cox by declaring that we will never take the right of freedom of speech and freedom of political expression for granted. This was a member of parliament doing her job, representing her constituents, going about her job, doing her job, serving her community. Vale, Jo Cox.