



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Dreamworld, Fatalities; Moorooka, Bus Incident**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.33 am): Last week was an emotional week for our state and our nation with the tragic events at Dreamworld and the death of a bus driver. The lives of these families have been changed forever and their loss has touched all Queenslanders. The events of last Tuesday at Dreamworld have been felt throughout Queensland with four lives so tragically lost and, by some miracle, two young children surviving. On behalf of all Queenslanders, our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of Kate Goodchild, Luke Dorsett, Roozi Araghi and Cindy Low.

On Thursday I travelled to Dreamworld and placed flowers on behalf of all Queensland families to remember the lives of those who were lost. Whilst I was there, I met with Assistant Commissioner Brian Codd and senior detectives and also spoke to members of the public. From the outset, I want to commend the Queensland Police Service and our front-line personnel, including our paramedics and health practitioners, who worked tirelessly to try to save the lives of those who were tragically lost. I was told that it was an absolutely horrific scene and many of these workers are now undergoing trauma counselling. I also want to pay tribute to the young Dreamworld staff members who rushed to the scene to assist families who were traumatised at the time. I have promised that as a government, we will leave no stone unturned until we have all the answers around what went so tragically wrong. I reiterate that to the House today.

I also want to thank UnitingCare Queensland and Lifeline for setting up a dedicated 24-hour helpline to assist people in need. I also thank Kids Helpline. I urge anyone who needs to talk to someone to please ring these numbers and speak to someone because this is a very sad time for many people. The shock of this tragedy will stay with people for a long time. I want to ensure that everything that can be done will be done to assist those who witnessed this horrific event. I know that I speak for all members of this House when I say that our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who tragically lost their lives.

On Friday we saw the tragic death of Manmeet Sharma. Mr Sharma was a bus driver for the Brisbane City Council and a tireless worker for the Indian community. Everyone who has spoken about Mr Sharma has described him as a wonderful person—a talented musician and someone who was always willing to stretch out his hand to help anyone in need. Yesterday, I had the opportunity to speak with the family of Mr Sharma. As members can imagine, they are distraught by the death of their much loved family member.

The commitment I have made is that I will work with the Indian community and the Brisbane City Council to ensure that Mr Sharma is remembered by all Queenslanders as a man who was loved and admired by his friends and family and was a leader in his community. The Minister for Multicultural Affairs has invited members of the Indian community to come to Parliament House today. We want to assure the Indian community that they are a valued and respected part of our Queensland community.

I also wish to place on record today my heartfelt thanks to a real local hero, local taxidriver Aguek Nyok, who was one of the first people to respond to the fire emergency on Friday. I have written to the Australian Bravery Decorations Council to nominate him for recognition. Mr Nyok's selfless actions saved the lives of over six people. In the eyes of all Queenslanders, he is a true local, community hero. I spoke personally to him and he said to me, 'This was my community. I would do anything for my local community.' I know I speak on behalf of everyone in Queensland and every member of this House when I offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of Kate, Luke, Roozi, Cindy and Manmeet.