



Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Moorooka, Bus Incident

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.26 am): I have more important things to talk about this morning. I would love for the member for Kawana to ask me a question. I would be grateful and willing to answer any question he put to me in this House at any time, instead of him getting up and making statements that he cannot substantiate and statements that are completely wrong and off the record.

I join with the member for Yeerongpilly in expressing my deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Manmeet Alisher, whose life was tragically cut short in Moorooka on Friday. Last night I joined with the local Indian community, who are pulling together in these tough times. Hundreds of members of Brisbane's much valued and respected Indian community were at the memorial service at the Sikh temple at Eight Mile Plains on Brisbane's south side. The event was a very emotional and sombre event. It was also a celebration and a memorial of Manmeet's life and a reminder of the tremendous contribution the local Indian community makes to Queensland.

Manmeet's life was full of promise. He was a much loved son, brother, entertainer and emerging community leader who was serving the public at the time of his death. That his death occurred in Moorooka, which is at the heart of Brisbane's multicultural community, is of great concern to me as Queensland's multicultural affairs minister. Moorooka is well known for its tremendous multicultural diversity and community spirit, and nothing captured this spirit better than the heroic actions of taxidriver Aguek Nyok, whose selfless actions on Friday saved many lives. He deserves his bravery award nomination, no doubt.

Today here at Parliament House I will be meeting again with local Indian community leaders, along with the Premier and Deputy Premier, to assure them of our unwavering support. Yesterday I met Mr Manmeet Alisher's brother. On behalf of us all in government I expressed our sincere condolences and sympathies to his family in India and also to his extended family. The local Indian community knows that the government is with them every step of the way at its time of mourning.

While the motivation for Friday's attack remains unclear, let me make it very clear that we reject any form of culturally motivated violence and that justice will run its course. I send a clear message to the local and international community that Queensland is a safe, welcoming and harmonious place. I also assure all Queenslanders that authorities are handling this matter with the professionalism it warrants. I extend my heartfelt condolences to all of the Indian community. It was an honour to be with them last night.