




Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

Record of Proceedings, 18 August 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Diew, Mr J

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (11.34 pm): I rise in this House with a heavy heart to speak about the late Jacob Jok Diew and his son Chan. Jacob was a resident of Sunnybank and he was unfortunately killed in South Sudan on 8 July, along with his son, his nephew and his driver. Jacob had rescued his nephew and was trying to get him to a hospital after he had been injured in the civil unrest that happened in South Sudan. Unfortunately, on his way back from collecting his nephew he met his untimely death, along with his son, the driver and his nephew.

Jacob Jok Diew was born in South Sudan on 23 April 1959. He completed his primary schooling at Ulang Primary School and then joined his senior secondary school where he completed his final studies in 1981. Jacob then studied at the American University of Beirut. After completing his studies he went back to Sudan, where he worked for the Ministry of Commerce and Trade in Khartoum. In 1995 he went to Egypt to join his family and he decided to study theology at the theological college in Cairo which he completed in 1997. In 1998 Jacob and his family migrated to Australia and settled in Sunnybank Hills, where his family built their own home in 2005. While in Australia, Jacob enrolled at Griffith University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Information Technology in 2006 and he did some postgraduate studies in information technology in 2007.

Upon his arrival in Queensland, Jacob worked for a number of organisations, including the Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma, QPASTT, as a community development officer, and the Multicultural Development Association, MDA, as a case manager. In 2009, Jacob went back to South Sudan to help in rebuilding the war-torn country after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Sudan government and the Sudan rebels. He was employed with DAR Petroleum, a Chinese oil company, as director of procurement and later as director of auditing until his untimely death with his son. He was an active member of the Sudanese and South Sudanese communities. He was president of the Sudanese Community Association. Mr Diew was an advocate for his community and he will be sadly missed.