



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**MultiLink's National Youth Week; Anzac Day**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (1.06 am): Tonight I rise to inform the House of a special event that I attended during Youth Week last week and the special services I will be attending over the weekend to honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Firstly, last week I was lucky enough to attend MultiLink's National Youth Week lunch, where I enjoyed a beautiful Afghani lunch with the MultiLink youth workers and some of their clients.

During that lunch I had the opportunity and the honour to meet with some of our younger new Australians and hear their stories, what they are enjoying about Australia and what is challenging them. I was inspired by their stories. They are brave young men and women who have had to flee their home countries as refugees, leaving behind many family and friends. Since arriving in Australia they have become excited and optimistic about the new opportunities available to them, so much so that many of them are now giving back by helping other young refugees in the Logan community and are studying youth and social work. I again thank Jacqueline, the acting CEO of MultiLink, and her dedicated staff for this warm event. Our soon to be released Queensland Youth Strategy will cater for all young Queenslanders, regardless of their background or circumstances. The lunches, meetings and events I attended during Youth Week, including the special one at MultiLink in Logan, will help me build a youth strategy for all young Queenslanders.

I am looking forward to another busy weekend as my community honours the Anzacs and those who embody the Anzac spirit. On Friday night I attended my first Anzac event at the Beenleigh RSL, at the invitation of David Draper, the hardworking president. It was a special night with lots of food, music and appreciation for the sacrifices that have been made so that we can live as freely and openly as we do today. More Anzac services will be held across Waterford and I will be returning to Beenleigh to attend the dawn and commemorative services and also the Jeta Gardens service. Jeta Gardens is a special retirement village in my electorate. They always produce a solemn Anzac service that includes the whole community. Many members of my community have served or know someone who has, and it is important that we pause and pay tribute to their courage and valour. I hope to see many of my community members join in the many Anzac services planned across Waterford and Logan, so that we can pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us.