




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

***Shadows of Shoah* Exhibition**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.30 pm): A couple of weeks ago I accepted an invitation to attend an exhibition entitled *Shadows of Shoah*, which was to have its opening night at the Brisbane Synagogue Memorial Hall. This event was well attended, with members of other faiths and dignitaries attending the opening along with representatives from all three levels of government in attendance. It is a remarkably powerful exhibition and was staged by the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies—QJBD.

Among other survivors of the Shoah, the exhibition features two cherished members of the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation, Reb Zelig Berkhut and Dr Bert Klug, who movingly describe their memories of this horrifically indescribable period of their young lives. An article about the exhibition quotes the president of the QJBD, Mr Jason Steinberg, who is present in the public gallery today. The article states—

... the exhibition was yet another way to educate Queenslanders about the shoah and impact of anti-semitism.

Mr Steinberg is quoted as saying that the exhibition was 'a huge honour for Queensland because it will help educate adults and school children about anti-semitism and the evils of the Holocaust'. *Shadows of Shoah* is an artistic project, communicating the gravity and significance of the Holocaust in a very sombre way. The exhibition was developed by Perry Trotter. He felt that for all the documentation and voluminous past research on the Holocaust, the human face was missing and that a shadow is cast upon Jewish people when the Shoah is discussed. This remarkable exhibition ensures each survivor's story is faithfully conveyed and is extremely moving.

At this event, I had the absolute honour of meeting Auschwitz Holocaust survivor Mr George Stein who is also present in the public gallery this afternoon. I have met some fascinating people in my time as a politician, but I was riveted by Mr Stein's story of hope and inspiration. He is the living embodiment of all that is good in mankind whilst staring down a dark time in history which displayed the absolute worst example of mankind. Born in Hungary in the late 1920s, Mr Stein was deported with his entire family to Auschwitz and he spent time in an underground tunnel manufacturing the V1 and V2 rockets at a concentration camp in Germany. He was liberated from Bergen-Belsen by the British forces on 15 April 1945 and, tragically, was the only survivor from his large family.

Mr Stein arrived in Australia as an unassisted migrant in 1955 with his wife and two small children and went on to become a true inspiration to all those who have known him professionally and in his local community. I will forever cherish the opportunity I had to spend time and converse with this remarkable gentleman because his love for life, family and country and the wellbeing of all those around him stood out. From the darkest shadows of adversity, he now radiates a light that illuminates all that is good in humankind.