



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Queensland, Tragedies**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.29 am): We have to acknowledge that last week was a week that brought unimaginable heartbreak to many people in Queensland and across Australia and reminded us all of just how fragile life is. Today just after two o'clock we will all stop and enjoy the race that stops a nation, but just over a week ago just after two o'clock we all stopped and witnessed the unbearable pain and loss that those who were at Dreamworld suffered as four people perished on that ride. I am sure that all of us here today continue to send our thoughts and our prayers and our hearts continue to feel for the family, the friends and those who knew those four people who died on that ride—on an innocent ride on an innocent day out. While the investigation into what went wrong must leave no stone unturned, we remain especially cognisant of the need to do whatever we can to help repair and rebuild the lives of those left behind.

Within days we learned of the brutal murder of a Brisbane mother of Macedonian extract at The Gap—another dreadful story tearing apart a community of people who came here over 30 years ago. Then of course there was the shocking news on Friday at around about 11 o'clock as it started to filter through that a Brisbane bus driver had died in a senseless act of violence at Moorooka. That this should happen in our city I think shocks all of us and all Queenslanders, and that it should happen during the Indian Festival of Lights, Diwali, is poignant as well. A festival that celebrates the success of light over darkness, of knowledge over ignorance, is particularly poignant. I was unable to attend the memorial service that was organised at the location late on the Friday afternoon and on the Saturday, but I did send a message from the opposition to the community expressing our condolences and our thoughts. There is no doubt that Manmeet Alisher was regarded by his community as a wonderful person—a kind soul who had a zest and a spirit for life—and we can only imagine how painful it must be for his parents and for those who knew him to have suffered such a senseless loss. We will continue to support the Indian community and all those involved in relation to that horrific event.

I also join with the Premier in congratulating taxidriver Aguek Nyok for his bravery. It takes something to be able to do something when others stand around, and to do what he did I think is a tremendous act of bravery and of course we support the Premier's nomination. As Queensland police Superintendent Jim Keogh remarked, as terrible and as tragic as this matter has been, it is evidence that community spirit is still strong and remains so. It has been a terrible week for all involved.