




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2017

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Multiculturalism

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.48 pm): You can talk about cover-ups when you disclose your donations of \$100,000.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, can you please make sure you no longer use the word 'you'. That applies to all members. All comments are to be directed through the chair.

Ms GRACE: When it comes to the integrity and leadership of the Premier, I will back her any day over those opposite. In Queensland August is Multicultural Month and it has been fantastic. Last Saturday I joined the Premier, the member for Clayfield and other members at Roma Street Parklands for the India Day Fair. On Sunday I had the pleasure of attending the festivities in Toowoomba. The Palaszczuk government's vision for a united, harmonious, welcoming and inclusive Queensland was on display for all to see. This morning we reaffirmed our commitment to that vision when you, Mr Speaker, and the Premier together signed a copy of the Multicultural Queensland Charter for permanent public display in the parliament.

That is why it pains me to refer to last week's events in the Australian Senate. Two remarkable events occurred. Firstly, there was the appalling and disrespectful stunt by One Nation and Senator Brandis's passionate speech in response. In the words of the Prime Minister, Senator Brandis 'spoke with eloquence and with wisdom' against that disgraceful stunt. Secondly, this side of the House will always give credit where credit is due, which is why Senator Brandis's response received a standing ovation from Labor and crossbench senators. I must admit I have never before witnessed such a scene in Australian politics. However, when I watched it on the news it was interesting and telling that not one of his own LNP senators stood up and applauded—not one.

In politics, you have to stand up and be counted for the things that you believe in. That is why I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government, which will always stand up for respect, fairness and inclusion for all Queenslanders, no matter where they come from. It is why I plead with those opposite to show leadership and join the Premier in denouncing One Nation's abhorrent and disrespectful antics and their disgusting attempts to stir fear, hatred and division amongst Queenslanders. When the member for Clayfield refuses to rule out any preference deals with One Nation, he is simply playing with fire. The recent events in Charlottesville, USA, show that when you do not show leadership in this space you allow Neo-Nazis and supremacists to display hatred and violence to the public.

Supporting our rich, vibrant multicultural community requires more than just showing up at festivals and eating their food. Those opposite should reject any deal with One Nation. Not to do so sends the worst possible message to our wonderful diverse rich multicultural community.