




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Manchester Incident, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.10 pm): I join with the Premier in saying that, like all Queenslanders—and, in fact, those throughout the civilised world—I am shocked, horrified and deeply saddened by the terrorist incident in Manchester. As a father of three teenagers, the brutal and horrific scenes of petrified kids running for their lives hit home for me, as I am sure it did for many of us. Watching the video footage of children screaming and hearing the voices of desperate parents searching for their missing children can only be described as harrowing.

How dare someone attack innocent kids and families simply attending a pop concert! It was pure evil and an evil which must be tackled head-on. What type of deranged, sick and cowardly person or persons would do this? I am sure there are many members in this House who feel the same way I do. I am sure there are many members of this House who, with their children, have attended concerts of a similar sort or have dropped them off. I dropped my daughter, Kate, to see Taylor Swift and One Direction, and my son to see an AC/DC concert. It is just a normal part of life. Kids should be able to go to concerts and to come home safely, and parents should not have to fret.

From the carnage, however, come reports of some truly inspiring and remarkable acts of bravery and sacrifice. Take Kelly Brewster, who died while shielding her 11-year-old niece from the blast. Take homeless man Chris Parker, who ran into the Manchester arena to help the wounded without any regard for his own safety. He tended to a woman who was badly hurt in the bombing with serious leg and head injuries who passed away in his arms. He then turned his attention to a little girl who had suffered horrific injuries and wrapped her in a T-shirt to stem the bleeding before paramedics arrived.

If we could all be half as brave as Chris Parker and Kelly Brewster then the world would be a much better place. It is people like Chris and Kelly who ensure that good prevails over evil. Love will always triumph over hate. Wherever we live, whatever the skin colour or religion of our neighbours, we can defend the best of what makes us great by refusing to give in to hatred, but sometimes—just sometimes—that resolve is well and truly tested.

On behalf of the entire Liberal National Party—members and MPs—I want to pass on my deepest condolences to the victims, their families, Manchester residents and the British people. As the Premier has said, we have stood with you before and we are standing with you again in these dark days.