




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Safety; Mount Gravatt Showgrounds Incident

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.01 am): Public safety is a key priority for the Palaszczuk government. All Queenslanders and visitors should be able to enjoy community events and public spaces safely and securely.

Like all Queenslanders, I was shocked to learn about the incident involving a stunt vehicle striking an adult and two children at a privately organised monster truck event at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds on Saturday night. I am advised that one of the children struck suffered a muscle and soft-tissue injury. I am sure that all members would agree that it could have been a lot worse. Our thoughts continue to be with the family involved, especially the injured child, as well as bystanders who may have been impacted by witnessing the event.

Queensland has in place a robust system of workplace health and safety laws that extend to public events, including commercial enterprises such as monster truck exhibitions, professionally run sporting events and music festivals. Promoters and organisers of events such as the one held on Saturday night are bound by the same duties and regulations as all workplaces under the Work Health and Safety Act. They must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of workers and other persons, including spectators, with regard to the activities being carried out as part of the business or undertaking.

I advise the House that Workplace Health and Safety Queensland inspectors have launched an investigation into the incident. I am further advised that the Queensland Police Service is also undertaking an investigation. My department is cooperating with the QPS as per the memorandum of understanding between the two agencies. It is important that both investigations run their course.

However, I have asked the director-general of my department to brief me as a priority on any findings to be implemented to ensure the mitigation of any risks of a similar incident happening in the future. I will ensure that my department works with all stakeholders and event organisers to explore ways to make events such as that safe in the future. It is important that the Queensland public have confidence in their safety and security when they attend public events. The Palaszczuk government will not hesitate to act on any recommendations or findings to achieve that outcome.