




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR HILL

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

MOTION

Immigration

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (3.47 pm): In response to the motion moved by the member for Sandgate, the world is vastly different to the one we grew up in as kids. It is no longer the case that people come to our country because they share our values and want to abide by our laws and our way of life. The reality is there are radical groups out there that have publicly stated they want to destroy our way of life. These are not the people we should be accepting freely with open arms. We recently experienced the hysteria from a speech made by Senator Fraser Anning speaking on behalf of ordinary, everyday Australians from all walks of life, nationalities and race. We saw the manipulation of words in his speech to suit federal MPs and senators who pretended to be unified in their mock outrage while ignoring the real issue of protecting our borders, job security and our way of life.

Freedom of speech in this country is very valuable and precious to all of us and the freedom to debate immigration deserves more than political grandstanding and avoidance of discussing the issue that the public has witnessed over this past week. A 2017 report by the Australian Population Research Institute found most voters wanted a reduction in immigration and an end to the rapid population growth.

A majority also agreed with statements that Australia was in danger of losing its culture and identity. In fact, immigration was one of the major issues discussed by callers on ABC Radio yesterday. These are real concerns that ordinary, fair-minded Australians have. How are the major parties working to acknowledge and address these concerns? Ignoring a problem or insulting those who point it out will not make the problem go away. Any claims that the KAP is racist are not supported by the facts and are absolutely ridiculous. We have a proven track record representing different religions and cultures. We have been vigorous in supporting the Sikh and the multicultural communities in Far North Queensland.

Bob Katter has been a fierce advocate for our First Australians for more than 40 years. We have a strong record in supporting the Jewish community and have advocated very strongly in bringing immigrants from persecuted minorities.

The attempt to twist Senator Anning's words to link him to past atrocities is shameful. Nobody has said that they want to return to the White Australia policy. That is a ridiculous assumption borne from hysteria. Every Australian wants a government that represents the interests of the people they were elected to serve. We have witnessed the results of indiscriminate immigration throughout Europe. Lives have been destroyed and lost because of governments' unwillingness to protect their people from those they have allowed to immigrate and live in their communities who do not understand or agree with democracy or the rule of law.

Not only do we need to protect our way of life but also we need to protect our jobs and our workers. Australia's immigration policy is outstripping our infrastructure. Bob Katter has outlined the impact of high immigration and the large number of overseas student visas and temporary work visas granted while we do not have the infrastructure, the university placements or the jobs to meet the needs of our domestic population.

The ACTU states the following in its *Change the rules* pamphlet—

The government is shipping in exploitation and taking away job opportunities for locals.

It goes on to highlight that one in 10 workers, or 1.4 million people, are on temporary visas in our country with work rights. This creates a decline in working conditions as those who will put up with reduced workers' rights replace those who understand what is at stake when working conditions are eroded.

Over the past week the Australian public have spoken. The ABC Brisbane poll, which ran last week, had a response of over 38,000 people, with 75 per cent of people responding saying that Senator Anning should not apologise for his speech. Those responding realise that his speech was deliberately misquoted to undermine the legitimate point that he was making.

The KAP office has been flooded with calls from Australians who were born here and those who emigrated here supporting our call for tougher immigration laws. I support the call to give Australian people, including those from other cultures and other religions who are citizens of our country, the right to determine how many and who they do and do not want here to build our society. I encourage this House to support the amendment to the motion moved by the member for Traeger.