




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Harmony Day

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.22 pm): During the last sitting of parliament I rose in this House to sing the Maori anthem for International Mother Language Day. I stand united with my beloved Kiwi community in condemning the violence that took the lives of 50 beautiful men, women and children in Christchurch two weeks ago in my beloved New Zealand. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend, I am sure on behalf of everyone in the House, the compassionate leadership of Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who has shown not just New Zealand but the rest of the world what a true leader looks like in times of crisis and sorrow.

Last week my beloved Mount Ommaney community gathered at schools to celebrate Harmony Day. It was a true honour as their local member to be present for some of these celebrations. The tiny but mighty Darra State School celebrated with a morning of international games from all around the world. Corinda State School celebrated in a very unique way. The students had an assembly to solve maths problems from all around the world. Jamboree Heights State School had a full fashion parade with costumes from over 30 nations worn by children who have heritage from those nations.

Oxley State School was awash with music as performers from all around the world, from the Cook Islands to Thailand, came together to commemorate. While I am on the subject of Oxley State School, I want to wish a very fond farewell to our wonderful and long-serving Oxley principal, Errol Slingsby. Mr Slingsby was the principal for the best part of 10 years. It was beautifully clear to see on Harmony Day just how deeply the parents and students would miss this wonderful community leader. He has always been very proud of his multicultural school.

The kids were amazing at all of the schools. I am not ashamed to admit that when the Jamboree Heights kids sang *We are Australian* I got very choked up, because I could see that the children of Mount Ommaney absolutely have the right idea. With 35 per cent of my Mount Ommaney residents either being born overseas or having a parent from overseas, my schools are multicultural melting pots. They embody the kind of celebration of our amazing cultural diversity in Queensland that desires to be celebrated.

There are people who do not share that community spirit and the loving attributes of my wonderful schools. The attacks in Christchurch have shown that there are people in our community and in our parliament who seek to disrupt this peace in our community, and there are politicians who support them. These politicians have been written off as some kind of curiosity, but we have all seen firsthand and cannot ignore that this dog whistling has consequences. I know that together we can stand with the beautiful kids in Mount Ommaney and stop the hatred and racism before it starts. Who is with me?