




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Camp Hill, Deaths

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.07 pm): Earlier today I put a post on my Facebook page. For the next two-and-a-half minutes or thereabouts, obviously I will be speaking as the proud member for Chatsworth, but really I will be conveying these words as a father. Unfortunately, my electorate has been touched by the scourge of two things that are afflicting society as a whole and, unfortunately, they came to light in my electorate of Chatsworth in the past 24 hours. On one of them, I will quote from my Facebook page. This morning I wrote—

As a politician, words normally come reasonably easy to me. Given the tragic local event yesterday, I am struggling to find the words to express the profound sorrow and grief the local community I am honoured to represent is feeling. The word 'tragedy' is used far too often out of context in modern society but sadly, on this occasion, it is entirely appropriate. To relatives, family friends, first responders and the entire Belmont Primary School community, my heartfelt condolence on this terrible loss ...

Unfortunately, the events that were all too well publicised yesterday occurred just outside of my electorate of Chatsworth. I am confident that the member for Greenslopes will be making a very heartfelt contribution straight after me. I will let him cover that aspect. Where it affects me is that two of the three children who are now sadly deceased went to one of my local schools.

I can recall only a few weeks ago when I was handing out awards and their little smiles will not leave me probably for the rest of my days. At the end of the day, you can read a stat about the fact that one woman is killed by a partner approximately every nine days in this country. I know the purists out there will say it is not just isolated to females being the victim, and that is true, but overwhelmingly the victims are female. Indeed, it is a scourge on society.

There is another matter that also touched my electorate today. Many members may have seen some of the social media vision of an intellectually disabled little Aboriginal boy, Quaden, who was bullied at school. Again, I will not mention the name of the school, suffice to say it is a school in my electorate. I was appalled by what I saw, as were, I believe, 4 million people so far throughout the world. I take this opportunity through you, Mr Speaker, to applaud the Indigenous All Stars NRL team who have reached out to this young boy, through his mum. I believe he will be running on the field in an exhibition match this weekend. The issue of domestic violence and bullying is a complete scourge on society. I urge this parliament to do everything we can to combat it.

Mr SPEAKER: Well said, member for Chatsworth.