




Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Alexandra Hills, Deaths

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.00 pm): The tragic event that took place at Alexandra Hills on Australia Day 2021 will remain in the minds of Redlands residents for many years to come, if not forever. It was a day of incredible shock and unbelievable sadness with the loss of innocent young lives taken far too soon, happy and hardworking young people who were building a bright future together and eagerly awaiting the arrival of their first child. Matt Field and Kate Leadbetter and their unborn baby, a son we later learned the couple had lovingly named Miles, were killed when they were struck by a recklessly driven four-wheel drive at a location known to just about everyone living in the Redlands. The location is prominent. It is one of the busiest roadways and carries thousands of vehicles every day.

Floral tributes, baby items, cards and notes grew outside the former Red shop, as locals and people from all walks of life came together to pay their respects, as well as try to come to terms with what had occurred in our close-knit and generally safe community. Kate and Matt were out doing what so many of us do every day. They were enjoying the simple pleasure of walking their dogs when the unthinkable happened. They were tragically hit by an out-of-control four-wheel drive only minutes from their home. A 17-year-old repeat offender, allegedly under the influence of an intoxicating substance, was at the wheel of the Toyota Landcruiser at the time. The vehicle had been stolen earlier from a home in nearby Cleveland. There are too many vehicles being stolen by juveniles right across the state. Alarming, this vehicle had been involved in a reckless ramming incident at the same intersection only a short time before the tragedy occurred.

On behalf of the people of my electorate I extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of Kate, Matt and baby Miles. We understand the heartbreak and the pain you must be going through with the loss of your loved ones. Our thoughts and our prayers continue to be with you throughout this difficult time. I also wish to acknowledge and thank the first responders and witnesses who rendered assistance at the scene under what would have been extremely shattering circumstances. Their efforts are to be commended and I sincerely hope that each of them is coping as best they can after experiencing such a horrifying situation. I also wish to thank the member for Broadwater and Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli, for his words of comfort to the community and for immediately coming out to a community vigil in Cleveland.

The Redland community and Queenslanders throughout the state are uniting to call for an end to rampant youth crime. They know the system is not working as it should be. It was encouraging to see a large number of interested local residents and 22 expert agencies come together on Friday, 12 February to participate in discussions about our youth justice system. I look forward to reporting on that in the future in this House.