



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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**MOTION**

**Queensland Border Restrictions**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.01 pm): This is a serious debate. This is a serious issue and it is a complex issue. Those on the other side like to make out as if all these stories are black and white, but they are not; they are complex. We do have clinicians, psychologists and health experts in that exemptions team working through these particular issues. We have heard a lot of names and a lot of stories in this debate. Can I add a few more?

These people do not have names. A woman in her 60s from south-eastern Sydney died at home. A man in his 60s from south-western Sydney died at Liverpool Hospital. A man in his 70s from western Sydney died at Liverpool Hospital. A man in his 90s from western Sydney died at Westmead Hospital. A woman in her 80s from western Sydney died at Blacktown Hospital. A woman in her 50s from south-western Sydney died at Westmead Hospital. A woman in her 80s from south-western Sydney died at Campbelltown Hospital. A woman in her 70s from south-western Sydney died at Campbelltown Hospital. A woman in her 30s from south-western Sydney died at Royal North Shore Hospital. A woman in her 70s from south-eastern Sydney died at Prince of Wales Hospital. A man in his 60s from western Sydney died at Westmead Hospital. A man in his 50s from south-western Sydney died at Westmead Hospital.

This was all in the last 24 hours in New South Wales. These are mums and dads, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, grandmothers and grandfathers. Who is telling their story? Who is fighting for them? What about the pain that their families are feeling, the fact that they died alone without a loved one holding their hand but some stranger covered in full PPE trying to support them as their life slipped away from COVID? These are just the deaths in the last 24 hours. They make up 198 people who have died in New South Wales alone from one cluster that started with one person on 16 June—one person from 16 June. That has now turned into 41,177 positive cases, 4,034 in Victoria—all linked to the same New South Wales cluster—and another 243 in the ACT. There are 1,241 people in hospital and 234 people in ICU. They deserve a voice as well in this debate.

These are real lives and these are real people. So when members want to stand up and talk about real stories and real people, I will talk about real people. We are trying to save lives here. We are trying to save lives here.

**Mr Bleijie:** Let's talk about Queensland.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection. I am talking about Queensland. I am trying to make sure that we are not standing here in parliament announcing that 12 people died yesterday because we let the virus loose.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat please, member for Redcliffe. Member for Kawana, you are on a warning.

**Mrs D'ATH:** We have heard throughout this entire debate from those on the other side, 'Bring back Queenslanders. Stop letting sports stars in. Stop letting essential workers in. These Queenslanders should be treated with priority.' I am sorry, but 18 months ago the Morrison government closed the borders. As the member for Mermaid Beach said, 'Shutting the international borders has stopped Queenslanders coming home.' However, every week they let in the same number of people as actual Australian residents. They let in people who are sports stars, celebrities, diplomats and everyone else above the cap. That is decided by the federal government.

We have no control over who is coming in on charter flights above the cap internationally that the Commonwealth lets in. They are letting in people above the cap over Queensland residents who are trying to come back to Australia, who have gone overseas for funerals and who have missed funerals here or who have not been able to be here for loved ones who have died. The same sacrifices are being made by Queenslanders and Australians trying to get back to our own country, so why is it so outrageous that in the last 3½ weeks we have put into place a process for the first time to actually cap how many people can go into quarantine at any one time to manage it and keep it safe? We have been waiting for 18 months for the Morrison government and those on the other side said nothing. Shame on you! They need to recognise that people have lost lives and how many lives we are trying to save in this state.

*(Time expired)*