



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 March 2022

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Ukraine**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.15 pm): The aggression of the Russian military upon the people of Ukraine is unacceptable and the human toll of this conflict is devastating. The Queensland government recognises the sovereignty of Ukraine and its right to peace, freedom and democracy. We stand proudly with them. As we continue to watch events unfolding with deep compassion and concern, our thoughts are with members of our community who are impacted and worried for their loved ones.

On Sunday, 6 March I attended along with you, Mr Deputy Speaker, a moving service at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Woolloongabba and spoke at a rally in Brisbane's King George Square where more than 1,000 people pledged their support for Ukraine. The passion not just from Father Stephen and the Ukrainian community but people from Brisbane's proud Polish community, the German community and people from all cultures and backgrounds was palpable. Everywhere I looked I saw flags of blue and yellow and Queenslanders showing their support for their friends, families and neighbours overseas. Earlier today I joined the Premier and you, Mr Deputy Speaker, to present a \$500,000 cheque on behalf of the Queensland government to the Ukrainian Crisis Appeal.

I acknowledge Peter Bongiorno, president of the Ukrainian community of Queensland; Mikayla, treasurer of the community; Adam and Nataliya who are here today in the gallery. It was truly a privilege to meet with them again today and others of their community to hear their stories and, I hope, to convey the support of the Queensland government. We stand with you.

We will continue to work collaboratively with the federal government and Queensland's Ukrainian community to ensure necessary support is available. We welcome the federal government's decision to grant automatic visa extensions to Ukrainian nationals in Australia who have a visa expiring before 30 June this year. We also welcome the federal government's announcement of 20 March that it would make temporary humanitarian visas available to Ukrainians who have arrived in Australia because they were forced to flee from Russia's military invasion.

Ukrainians arriving in Queensland will be greeted with the warm welcome Queenslanders are known for giving. We have a long and proud history of helping people seeking haven from conflict overseas, including refugees seeking to re-establish their lives in this state. Under the Queensland Multicultural Policy *Our story, our future* the government has made a specific commitment to support refugees and people seeking asylum to participate and contribute to all aspects of Queensland life. I thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your unwavering support for the Queensland Ukrainian community and for hosting the event earlier today with the community.

I commend the Ukrainian community of Queensland's efforts to coordinate information and support for people trying to bring their families and friends to Australia. I join with the Ukrainian community of Queensland in appealing to all Australians to donate. We stand with you in the pursuit of freedom, peace and democracy.