




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Stein, Mr G; Holocaust Museum and Education Centre

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.44 am): On behalf of all Queenslanders, I extend our sympathy to the family of George Stein, a survivor of the Holocaust, a fearless Queensland, a loving husband, father and grandfather, a storyteller and a respected leader who passed away on 18 April aged 95. It is humbling to pay tribute to this extraordinary person, a man with an indomitable spirit.

Born in the Hungarian city of Oradea in 1927, he was only a teenager when he and his family were taken to a ghetto, then transported to Auschwitz concentration camp following the Nazi occupation of his homeland. His crime—being Jewish. On arrival at Auschwitz he was separated from his family and sent to work at a labour camp in Germany. It was the last time he saw his mother, father and sister. When the Allies destroyed the Dora labour camp he survived, only to be transported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The camp was liberated by Allied forces and, remarkably, he survived.

In 1955, Mr Stein, now joined by his wife Gertrude, migrated to Australia and made Brisbane their home and the place they would raise their children. Mr Stein's life here was dedicated, in part, to teaching others about what happened in the Holocaust. This included delivering lectures at schools, clubs and organisations in Queensland and other parts of the nation, including the Sydney Jewish Museum. He also worked on documentaries and videos with German TV, the BBC and Canadian TV.

Mr Stein returned to Europe several times to revisit the sites that became familiar to him during the war and continue adding to his own, personal history bank. In his obituary, his son Michael wrote of his father's passion for his community and his desire to build a state-of-the-art and modern synagogue. Michael writes that his father built the synagogue 'basically brick by brick with the work being done by Dad after hours. It included a 20-foot menorah, which still stands proudly at the entrance yard.'

Another of his aims was to establish a place of remembrance and education in Brisbane. To this end, in the 1970s he organised the first Holocaust exhibition in Queensland at Brisbane City Hall. Work is well underway to establish this place of remembrance. The Palaszczuk government has committed \$3.5 million to the establishment of a Holocaust museum and education centre in Brisbane, matching the Australian government's commitment of \$3.5 million and Brisbane City Council's pledge of \$500,000.

Based in central Brisbane, the centre will comprise exhibitions, education and training resources around the Holocaust and will also include exhibitions focusing on genocides committed in other countries. These stories of lived experiences are powerful tools, which will help educate Queenslanders and visitors about the importance of standing up against racism and prejudice of all forms and to point out the devastating human toll wreaked by bigotry and human rights abuse. To his grieving family, the Palaszczuk government expresses our profound condolences on his passing. His life's work and dedication will ensure that we never forget. Vale, George Stein.