



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Holocaust Museum and Education Centre**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.57 am): Mr Speaker, I would like to join with you and the Premier in acknowledging the presence in the gallery today of the President of the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, Jason Steinberg; Holocaust survivors Dr Bert Klug and Suzi Smeed; Rabbi Nir Gurevitch; and descendants of Holocaust survivors as we make today's momentous announcement.

Across the globe, Holocaust museums and education centres play a vital role in educating and reminding us of how we can individually contribute to stopping racism, hatred and genocides and of the risk when we do not. In October 2020, our government committed \$3.5 million towards the establishment of the Queensland Holocaust Museum and Education Centre. This complemented funding commitments of \$3.5 million by the federal government and half a million dollars by the Brisbane City Council. I am delighted to acknowledge the Premier's announcement that the centre will open in Brisbane's cathedral precinct at the old archives building and Penola Place in Charlotte and Edward streets. I extend my appreciation to the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane, in particular Archbishop Mark Coleridge for partnering and providing this important site. The centre will include exhibitions, education and training resources about the Holocaust and will also shine a light on devastating genocides committed in other countries.

The site will be home to both tangible and interactive displays, teaching resources and a virtual museum to ensure global connectivity. A mobile museum, which includes interactive components, will ensure statewide access to the museum's stories and resources for students and teachers. Once operational, the centre will help to educate Queenslanders and visitors about the importance of standing up against racism and prejudice and about the devastating human toll of bigotry. Work has already started with the recording of memories and stories of survivors of the Holocaust to form part of the displays at the centre, as well as the online virtual museum.

In May I attended Yom HaShoah with my two young boys. At the service, children from the Jewish community read the accounts of children who had experienced the Holocaust. Few diaries and journals have survived, but those which have provide eyewitness accounts of the Warsaw Ghetto, of children living in hiding or as concentration camp prisoners. All of the accounts shared were confronting to hear—they were particularly confronting for my children—but we must never turn away from such stories and from the difficult conversations that such accounts generate, because stories are powerful—stories such as that of Dr Klug, who in 1939 was sent to a forced labour camp in Poland for two years while his parents were deported to German concentration camps, where they were devastatingly killed; or the story of Suzi Smeed, who, along with her parents, survived the Holocaust thanks to the kindness and bravery of friends and strangers who kept them hidden with the full knowledge that providing such assistance could lead to a death sentence. These are the stories that need to be told, and the Queensland Holocaust Museum and Education Centre will do just that for generations to come.

I look forward to hosting members of the Jewish community and Holocaust survivors and descendants of survivors along with the Premier this morning, and our government looks forward to continuing to partner with the Jewish Board of Deputies president and chair of the managing entity, Jason Steinberg, and the Jewish community to see this important project delivered.