




Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2023

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: ARNOLD, MR M; DARE, MR A; MCCROW, MS R**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.59 am): A priority as Minister for Industrial Relations is that every worker returns home safely each and every day. Queenslanders deserve to be safe in their local communities. Sadly for some, that is not always the case. We were all deeply saddened to learn of the tragic deaths of police constables Matthew Arnold and Rachel McCrow and neighbour Alan Dare on 12 December last year.

I express my deepest and most sincere condolences to the families and friends of Matthew, Rachel and Alan. These three lives were taken in the most horrific of circumstances. It rocked us all not only in Queensland but around the nation. In the days following there was sheer disbelief that something like this could happen and there was a huge outpouring of grief.

I accompanied the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer to the Queensland Police Memorial in Brisbane Botanic Gardens to pay our respects. I also attended the moving and incredibly sad memorial service for Matthew and Rachel. I know all who attended were overwhelmed by the heartfelt, respectful manner in which the memorial service was organised.

We are committed to do all we can to ensure the health and safety of workers, especially our frontline workers, who put their lives on the line every day to keep Queenslanders safe. Our thoughts are with Matthew's and Rachel's colleagues whose lives were no doubt changed forever on that day.

Last year we proudly passed legislation in this House that provides presumptive workers compensation benefits for first responders suffering from PTSD. This tragedy is a stark reminder of the dangers our police officers face every day and the amazing and dedicated work of our first responders.

Last year I was extremely proud to attend the police graduation of my nephew Izac. I know the Police Commissioner was there as well. Seeing the pride in Izac's face and that of my sister and other families at his graduation was a proud moment for me as, too, was seeing Izac attend the memorial service, travelling from the Gold Coast where he is based.

I have the greatest respect for our brave police officers who choose to dedicate their working life to protecting and serving Queensland. My heart aches for the families of Matthew and Rachel who also recently attended their graduations. These young and dedicated police officers deserved to have a long and fulfilling life.

I also want to acknowledge the loss of Alan Dare, who lost his life while simply trying to be a good neighbour—an absolute tragedy. My sincere condolences go to Alan's family and friends. May they all rest in peace.