




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Hate Crimes, Legislation

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.10 am): Disappointingly, we are seeing increasing examples of the rise of Neo-Nazi groups and the use of hate symbols in Australia, including a sickening display of the Nazi salute at an event in Melbourne last week, which the Attorney-General referred to. I welcome the legislation to be introduced into this House today by the Attorney-General to strengthen the state's response to hate crimes and vilification. Every person has the right to feel safe—free from harm, discrimination and vilification in our community. I note the very strong advocacy of our multicultural leaders with regard to this legislation, the important work of the committee and the powerful submission that my multicultural advisory council made to that process.

Queensland is home to many survivors and descendants of the devastating Holocaust. The Jewish community has been very strong advocates of this legislation. Across the globe, Holocaust museums and education centres play such an important role in educating and reminding each of us how we can individually contribute to stopping hate crimes and vilification—and the risk when we do not.

In October 2020, as the Premier outlined this morning, our government committed \$3.5 million towards the establishment of the Queensland Holocaust Museum and Education Centre. The centre will be located in Brisbane's cathedral precinct. I thank the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane and extend my appreciation to the archbishop for partnering with us in regard to this commitment.

I visited the site on Monday to see firsthand the progress that has been made. It is incredibly moving and impactful. The space is beautiful and I know will have a significant impact on all who visit it. While funding for the centre has been committed by all three levels of government, the project is being delivered by the Jewish community via a separate entity, the Queensland Holocaust Museum and Education Centre Ltd, established to oversee the creation of the museum and education centre.

The centre will comprise exhibitions, education and training resources about the holocaust. It will empower individuals, particularly school students, to stand up against hatred and prejudice to prevent human rights atrocities from reoccurring. The centre will provide accessible educational programs so Queensland students can participate, either in person or via online programs, including potential conversations with survivors. The site will be home to both tangible and interactive displays and will be strengthened by teaching resources and a virtual museum to ensure global connectivity. A mobile museum, which also includes interactive components, will ensure statewide access to the museum's stories and resources, in particular for students and teachers.

Work to record memories and stories of survivors of the holocaust is now largely complete. These will form part of the displays at the centre as well as the online virtual museum, which is taking shape. I anticipate the opening of the centre will be mid this year. Once operational, the centre will help educate Queenslanders and visitors about the importance of standing up against racism and prejudice in all its

forms and to point out the devastating human toll wreaked by bigotry and human rights abuses. I acknowledge the Jewish Board of Deputies, particularly chair of the managing entity, Jason Steinberg, for allowing us to partner on such an important project.