



Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**

**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**


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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**National Week of Deaf People**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Before I call the member for Macalister, I advise the House that the member will use Auslan sign language for her speech, as approved by the Speaker. This will be done in silence followed by the member reading the speech aloud.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.35 pm): *The member for Macalister gave her speech using Auslan, Australian sign language.*

Next week is National Week of Deaf People. This week includes the International Day of Sign Languages. It is an opportunity for deaf people to celebrate their community and their language, culture and history and it is also a chance to make you all aware of your local deaf community. The theme for 2023 is a world where deaf people can sign anywhere. This is my second attempt at signing a speech in this place, but I am not deaf. However, over 20,000 people in Australia use Auslan. This includes the children and parents of deaf people. It is only fair that this place should be one where deaf people can sign and I look forward to a time when someone who uses Auslan as their first language can take a seat in this place. I thank the Speaker and members for their patience and, more importantly, I thank the deaf community for its patience during my speech.