




Speech By
Hon. Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

White, Ms V

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (2.40 pm): It is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise to pay tribute to Vyleen White and offer my sincerest condolences and that of the Bundamba community to her family. Vyleen will forever remain a much loved and respected member of our community who was cruelly and violently taken from her family, her loved ones and our community on the evening of Saturday, 3 February when she was simply popping down to the shops. Like so many locals, I am shocked, horrified and still in disbelief that this has occurred in our community. This tragedy has shaken us to our core and the outpouring of care and compassion has been overwhelming. Thank you to all those who have laid flowers, lit candles, laid cards at Town Square shopping centre and to those who attended the community vigil or sent their thoughts and prayers to Vyleen and her family.

We are united in our grief for Vyleen and united in our support for her family. While our community is hurting, we are standing together. This was evident last Thursday night when, led by the White family and African community leaders, our community, police and other organisations came together in support of accountability, unity and healing. I would particularly like to thank and acknowledge Vyleen's daughter Cindy Micallef and Beny Bol for their moving and graceful words. I also want to acknowledge our mayor and the member for Surfers Paradise for their contributions.

It was a powerful and genuine show of togetherness: many people, many backgrounds, different organisations and different levels of government, nonpartisan, unified to honour Vyleen, her family and all that is good—and there is plenty of it—about our wonderful community. I want to place on record my thanks to our hardworking and dedicated police. It is their swift and relentless work that means those accused of this heinous crime are now before the courts. While we have record numbers of local police, we need to do more. Increased patrols at Town Square are welcome as is the deployment of a mobile Police Beat. I back my community's call for more resources and will continue to advocate for more permanent local police resources. I would like to see shopping centres have more security measures, including better lighting, more CCTV and security guards.

There is no doubt that traumatic events such as this have long-lasting and long-term impacts for immediate family, witnesses and our community more broadly. I want to acknowledge the incredible work of the Victims of Crime community response team that has been supporting our community through this time of great individual and collective pain. They have been set up right outside the Aldi at Town Square providing support to anyone who has come to pay respects.

We are a strong, proud community that stands in support of Vyleen and the White family seeking accountability for those responsible and united in our journey towards peace and healing. Vale, Vyleen White.