




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Multiculturalism

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.43 pm): To not condemn is to condone. This is the message the Crisafulli LNP government has sent to our multicultural communities following anti-immigration rallies. These protests were not only misguided but dangerous. We can have a rational discussion about migration levels in our country, but they are not rational when they specifically target and vilify hardworking migrants in our communities. They are not rational when they are led by Neo-Nazis and far-right groups who are using people's genuine concern as fodder to espouse a return to a White Australia policy. Our Indian and Chinese communities do not deserve to be racially targeted and their fears and concerns should not have been minimised.

I personally spoke to many who on that Sunday chose not to work, who stayed home and forwent income for fear of violence emanating from these protests. Despite the Leader of the Opposition and I writing to both the Premier and the Minister for Multiculturalism regarding what specific measures would be in place to protect the community, we heard nothing. More importantly, this LNP Premier and his ministers refused to condemn the rallies, citing freedom of speech. Of course this comes from the very same LNP that has voted at their recent policy convention to water down hate speech laws because—and get this—the LNP believe that the offence to offend, insult or humiliate someone on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin 'casts a long shadow' over public debate.

What happens when you embolden people to exercise this so-called freedom of speech? We saw a cowardly and racially motivated bomb threat at the Islamic College of Brisbane which threatened to blow up the school and stab the students. Children are being targeted because of their faith, the lowest of acts. We saw the Arundel mosque on the Gold Coast threatened with a fake bomb, a mosque that has operated peacefully and in harmony with their community for over 30 years. We saw our Jewish community having to increase security measures at their synagogues.

Let's be very clear. These are the consequences when you allow hate to spread. When you see political leaders like the LNP's Jacinta Price say publicly that the Indian community is only being prioritised for migration because of how they vote, you have to wonder what the LNP are saying in private. Then refusing to apologise and being actively supported and encouraged by many in her own party shows what the LNP really think about our multicultural communities.

Once again, I say to our multicultural communities: on this side of the House we stand with you, we recognise you and we respect you. My parents came to this country in the 1950s and 1960s as migrants. They worked hard, peacefully and made a contribution to their adopted nation. They raised their children to be equally proud of their Australian and Greek heritage. It is what we want for every child growing up in our state, but clearly not under the LNP.